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From Peter Nichol, Rome

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No 61,823

THE TIMES

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Going for broke
Give my discards to Broadway, says a rainsoaked Philip Norman

Teachers to extend pay dispute

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers is to increase industrial action in its pay dispute. Members have been instructed to refuse to cover absent colleagues from next week. Selective strike action is likely to begin on May 14 and walk-outs lasting up to an hour have been called for May 24.

Flat sealed

Soviet police sealed off the Moscow flat of Yelena Bonner, wife of Dr Andrei Sakharov, after Tass accused Washington of plotting with her. Page 5

Car sales boom

Sales of new cars in the first four months of this year were up 3 per cent on a year ago to a record 660,824. Page 2

Pro-Forum

Washington will press Britain to consider seriously the proposals for a united Ireland in the New Ireland Forum's report. Page 6

Better benefits

A loophole in the Social Security Pensions Act is to be blocked, giving enhanced benefits to those who are made redundant or who change jobs. Family money, page 26

French PM ill

Mr Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, was admitted to hospital in Paris suffering from a lung ailment. Engagements have been cancelled until next week.

'Blacklist' fear

Britain's 5,000 stable lads, unhappy with the National Trainers Federation's pay offer, are hesitant about beginning industrial action for fear of being placed on an alleged trainers blacklist. Page 3

£137,000 payoff

Sir Campbell Fraser, former chairman of Dunlop which doubled its net loss to £167m during 1983, received a payoff of £137,000, the company's annual report reveals. Page 23

Rates pressure

An increase in the banks' base rates to 9 per cent looked nearer as money market rates continued to rise. Kenneth Fleet, page 23

Rail threat

Rail services face disruption within two weeks in a pay and productivity dispute between British Rail and the unions. Page 2

Miller century

Geoff Miller, of Derbyshire and England, scored his first hundred in first-class cricket. Graham Gooch, of Essex, scored 84 of his side's total of 113 against Kent. Page 30

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Private funds may be sought for NCB expansion

● The National Coal Board should be allowed to seek private investors in new highly-profitable pits, a Cabinet subcommittee is believed to have decided.

● A Blast furnace at the Llanwern ship mill could suffer £30m of damage and collapse unless miners allow coke to be moved into the plant.

● Coal continued to be brought into Ravenscraig steelworks yesterday, despite an appeal from the Transport and General Worker's Union for lorry drivers to respect picket lines.

● More than 2,000 strikers laid siege to Hacknall Colliery, Nottinghamshire, for the second day running yesterday leading to the arrest of 19 pickets.

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

A Cabinet subcommittee is believed to have agreed that the National Coal Board should be allowed to seek private capital to develop a new generation of highly-profitable pits.

Ministerial sensitivity on the decision is so acute that the Prime Minister and senior ministers have gone to desperate lengths, bordering on panic, to keep it secret.

It is felt that news of the privatization policy could well aggravate the pit strike and stiffen the miners' resolve.

But it must also be a prerequisite of the plan that the political power of Mr Arthur Scargill and the National Union of Mineworkers should be broken.

It is unlikely that private investment could be attracted if Mr Scargill were able to stop the current programme of pit closures. If he won that battle, he could prevent privatization.

Government determination to outflank the strikers was underlined yesterday by Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who said in a BBC radio interview: "Obviously, if the strike dragged on past Christmas or so, then we would begin to get more problems."

Mr Tebbit, a member of the relevant Cabinet committee, said at a Commons lunch last month that there would be no

mining dispute if the coal industry had been denationalized.

He then added: "I fancy there would have been cheaper coal, cheaper power and better-paid miners, with more efficient economy. It is a thought for the future."

The next day, April 5, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, warned MPs about

Coalmining in Britain promises enormous profits for a generous investor, page 2

the pitfalls of taking things seriously. "That rabbit will not run," he said.

Earlier that day, at a Cabinet meeting, Mr Tebbit volunteered an apology to colleagues for his "silly" comment. That was leaked to journalists.

It now appears that Mr Tebbit had spoken out of turn. While the Cabinet committee had no intention of seeking denationalization, it does intend private partnership agreements under which companies such as Taylor Woodrow might invest in pit development in return for coal which could possibly be used in privatized power stations.

Taylor Woodrow, which is a coal board open-cast mining contractor in Northumberland,

is known to be considering the purchase of Plymouth B and Carmarthen Bay power stations where it could use coal dividends from its pit investment.

Other investors, such as the pension funds, could enter partnership agreements as part of a strictly financial transaction.

The key ministers behind the decision are Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer and chairman of the Cabinet committee on disposal and privatization of state assets, and Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who is in overall charge of privatization.

Mr Lawson, as Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr Moore, as Minister of State for Energy with responsibility for coal, drafted the part-privatization plan before the last general election.

But the election manifesto said: "In the next Parliament, we shall seek other means of increasing competition in, and attracting private capital into, the gas and electricity industries. Those nationalized industries which cannot be privatized or organized as smaller and more efficient units will be given top-quality management and required to work to clear guidelines."

Continued on page 2, col 5

Union clash over coal blockade

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

An attempt to forge a united front of unions at the threatened Ravenscraig steelworks ended in confusion and further disagreement yesterday with convoys of lorries continuing to take urgently needed coal into the plant.

However, there is a serious threat that supplies could dry up completely.

The Transport and General Workers' Union has asked lorry drivers with the three haulage companies taking coal into the plant to "respect" miners' picket lines, but it was not clear last night whether that amounted to asking them not to defy the pickets.

A further threat was posed by the rail unions' decision not to take in the daily trainload which has been sanctioned by the miners. This means the lorry drivers and railwaymen could starve the plant of coal.

Meanwhile steel union officials walked out of a Glasgow meeting called to discuss the crisis at the Motherwell works because National Union of Mineworkers members who had organized the meeting would allow only be discussed.

Representatives of the haul-

Continued on back page, col 1

Steel talks planned as crisis deepens

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ministers, Whitehall officials and top executives of the British Steel Corporation (BSC) are to hold a series of discussions in the next few weeks to determine the future shape of the nation's steel industry, now plunged into a deepening financial crisis by the miners' strike.

The BSC's long-awaited corporate plan has been delayed even further by the dispute, which is posing a serious threat to the Ravenscraig mill in Scotland and at Llanwern in South Wales. There are now growing fears that if the dispute continues for much longer it will be impossible for the BSC or the government to justify keeping the Scottish works in operation.

The Whitehall talks will include consideration of a number of options put forward by the BSC board and its chairman, Mr Robert Haslam, to cope with the immediate crisis and, in his words, to take the corporation "to the ultimate goal of achieving a fully commercially viable steel business."

Although the corporation has consistently declined to discuss publicly the full impact of the coal dispute - for fear of panicking customers into placing even more contracts overseas and tipping off competitors about the state of the industry -

it is clear that the BSC is in a poor position to withstand disruption in its raw material or fuel supplies.

Before the pit strike began, the BSC was operating at only 70 per cent of full capacity, an insufficient rate to maintain the industry's 14.4 tonnes of mandated capacity. Between May and October last year the BSC's losses rose from £2.5m to £3m a week, a level that has persisted this year and is now probably running even higher.

Losses accelerated last year because of the collapse of fragile European price levels and because of exchange rate fluctuations.

British steelworkers at the huge Llanwern strip mill were last night working to save a blast furnace after coking in South Wales had rejected pleas from their own National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to allow coke to be moved into the plant.

The refusal of the coking men to allow the supplies to be moved in despite an agreement between the Coal Board and the South Wales NUM led to a further rift between the miners and steel workers. Unless the temperature in the number one blast furnace can quickly be raised the linkings could collapse causing £30,000,000 worth of damage.

Diana Dors seriously ill after operation

By David Hewson

The actress Diana Dors was seriously ill last night five days after major abdominal surgery. Her husband, the actor Alan Lake, was believed to be at her side at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Windsor.

Miss Dors, aged 52, has had two operations for cancerous growths in the past two years. She collapsed at her home with stomach pains last Saturday and had surgery to remove a large intestinal blockage. Doctors

said that she started to make a good recovery, but over the past 24 hours her condition has "seriously deteriorated."

"She is being attended to by her doctors and supported by a high dependency nursing team. Every effort is being made to ensure she is comfortable," the hospital added.

Miss Dors, born Diana Fluck, was a popular cinema star of the 1950s. Unlike most sex symbols of that time, she managed to adapt to more demanding

theatrical roles. In 1974 her performance as Jocasta in *Oedipus*, the Greek tragedy was praised.

In recent years, she published her memoirs, and worked for the breakfast television station TV-am. She lost the job earlier this year in a round of economies at the station, and had been involved in a legal dispute with the company after she mentioned a commercial product in an item on slim-



Elysée close-up: Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand exchange views before their working lunch on EEC affairs in Paris yesterday. (Smiles but no progress, page 6)

Botha to call on Thatcher

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, is to pay a short working visit to Britain on Saturday, June 2. It will be the first visit by a head of Government from Pretoria for 23 years.

But controversy began to build up with an hour of last night's announcement by Downing Street, with the Anti-Apartheid Movement promising "large and angry" demonstrations in London.

Mr Botha has been invited to have talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher during his European tour, which will also include visits to West Germany, Switzerland and Portugal.

Mrs Thatcher is expected to press for swifter progress towards a settlement of the Namibian independence issue and to make clear the British Government's distaste for apartheid. It remains also pledged to support the Glenageary agreement on no sporting links with South Africa.

But this is unlikely to save Mrs Thatcher and her ministers from a volley of criticism inside and outside Parliament.

The last ministerial contact with South Africa was the meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr R. F. Botha, when the South African Foreign Minister was here last December. A month earlier Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, paid an official visit to Pretoria.

Mr John Carlisle MP, the secretary of the all-party British-South African Parliamentary Group, said last night: "We are delighted at the news. It marks a recognition of the importance of South Africa on the international scene."

But his words of welcome seemed in danger of being drowned by a chorus of disapproval from black rights organizations, led by the Anti-Apartheid Movement, which said in a statement that it "totally condemns" the visit.

Mr Mike Terry, a spokesman for the movement, said that a meeting has already been arranged with the police for Tuesday to discuss arrangements for a demonstration in London and, if necessary, at Chequers, on the supposition that Mrs Thatcher will choose to meet her weekend guest at her official country retreat.



Mr Botha: Faces strong protests

Main parties take comfort from polls

By Julian Haviland and Hugh Clayton

The votes cast on Thursday in some 22 parliamentary and local contests gave all parties some comfort yesterday. But they gave no proof of the Labour Party's claim that it is back on level terms with the Conservatives; and they destroyed the hopes of both Labour and the Conservatives that the challenge of the Alliance parties might be waning.

An ebullient Mr Neil Kinnock told the Welsh T.U. at Llandudno that he would have been prime minister had there been a general election the day before. But no conceivable reading of the three parliamentary by-elections or of the district elections could sustain his dream.

Labour's shadow Home Secretary, Mr Gerald Kaufman, steadied by a long night in the television studios and by his pocket calculator, observed rather that Labour had "done not too badly," and had begun the climb back under Mr Kinnock's leadership.

Labour did well by the manner in which they held the safe Cynon Valley parliamentary seat in South Wales. Mrs Ann Clwyd, a member of the party's National Executive Committee, performed the rare feat for Labour nowadays of putting up their share of the vote as well as depriving the Conservative and Plaid Cymru candidates of their deposits.

In the district polls, Labour's most striking success was in taking control of Edinburgh from the Conservatives for the first time in the party's history. Labour's capture of Birmingham, which the Conservatives were lucky to have gained at the height of the Falklands tide two years ago, was more easily achieved.

Kinnock claim, page 2

Council election results, page 5

Missile aim by home computer

By John Lawless

United States military chiefs have demonstrated to the British Ministry of Defence how an unmodified Apple II micro-computer can be used to target weapons.

The US Embassy in London disclosed yesterday that the demonstration had taken place and that others had been given to senior military officers in other countries in an attempt to emphasize that Warsaw Pact countries should not be sold large quantities of computers that are readily available in Western high street shops.

They were said to be a repetition of a demonstration first given to the US Senate on April 2. An official in London said: "There is disagreement between the United States and other Nato countries as to how the Soviet military could benefit from personal computers."

The Americans are particularly concerned to emphasize the dangers to the British because of Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has said that they are trying too hard to cut down on all high technology leakages, and that they should be concentrating on controlling exports of particularly sensitive equipment.

He said, after returning from a recent trip to the United States, that if the Russians are desperate to get hold of desktop computers, they could break into almost any British school and steal them.

The American official quoted his Administration's view that "because of their small size, weight, power and rugged packing, these computers have a high military utility for target analysis planning, for shipboard systems control, for high speed communications and particularly for compact military command centres."

Breakdown nears in Liverpool

From David Walker, Liverpool

Municipal breakdown in Liverpool now looks unavoidable. The city's Labour leaders were yesterday confident that Thursday's local elections gains will secure a passage of their difficult budget through the City Council.

Adoption of Labour's plan for high spending but a low rate rise could result in court action against councillors on an unprecedented scale, and possibly the activation by the Government of its contingency plans for direct administration of Liverpool.

The exact ideological composition of Liverpool's 58 Labour councillors will become clear on Tuesday, when the district party hold a special session. But the hope still being expressed by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, that new Labour councillors will join the five previously announced rebels against the party line now looks faint.

It seems that Mr Derek Hatton, the Militant supporter who is the effective leader of the council, but deputy in name, has gained adherence.

A special budget meeting is being planned for May 15 after the formal annual meeting of the council. At this meeting Labour leaders will again present their plan for a rates increase of 9 per cent paying for a spending of £225m while actually budgeting for outlays of at least £270m.

Such a plan would be open to immediate challenge in court by the district auditor or rate-payers. Councillors could be found liable, surcharged and disqualified from public office.

In the cold light of day after

Continued on back page, col 2

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SAVE & PROSPER

Metro the top-selling car again but strike casts shadow over BL success

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Evidence that the consumer boom is continuing came yesterday with the news that new car sales in the first four months of the year were up 3 per cent on a year ago to a record 600,824.

The renewed fortunes of BL were confirmed with the news that the April market share for Austin Rover was 21.38 per cent and that the Metro was the best selling car in Britain for the second month running. But, the state company's success is once again threatened by a strike which has halted production of the Metro at Longbridge, Birmingham.

BL's newly found market share has been due to the popularity of the Metro and Maestro ranges and there are high hopes for the new Montego, which is seen as the answer to the Ford Sierra and Vauxhall Cavalier in the all-important fleet car sector. There are fears,

Best selling cars in April

1 Metro	13,802
2 Ford Escort	13,482
3 Vauxhall Cavalier	11,898
4 Austin Maestro	10,554
5 Ford Sierra	9,175
6 Ford Orion	8,040
7 Ford Fiesta	6,923
8 Vauxhall Astra	4,981
9 Vauxhall Nova	4,415
10 Volvo 300 series	3,596

however, that the dispute might spread to the Montego production line.

Austin Rover remained undaunted. A spokesman said yesterday: "The results are most encouraging. In the year so far, we are the second largest car seller in the UK."

Vauxhall, too, exuded confidence. In four months the company said, 119,972 new cars had been registered, 18.2 per cent of the total market and a 38 per cent increase on the 86,978 in the same period of 1983. The Cavalier, with 11,898 sales, was the third best-selling model in April.

Mr David Lahri, the company's director of marketing, said: "Vauxhall continues to gather strength, helped by the ever growing reputation of our cars for quality and reliability."

Ford, with four models in the top ten, managed to capture 27.9 per cent of the April market - up from 26.6 per cent a year ago but still short of the company's continuing target of 30 per cent. The Ford dealer promotion has boosted Orion sales from ninth position in the sales league in March to sixth in April.

One of the more pleasing aspects for BL of the April market - almost 11 per cent better than a year ago and the best April figure since 1979 - is that imports have fallen again to 53.52 per cent, a significant drop of 5 per cent on a year ago.

Japan's share last month was down to 9.5 per cent from 13.4 per cent last year, with Nissan capturing under five per cent.



Cheating death: The crushed car from which Mr Richard Dawe and his son Ashley, aged three, crawled after the vehicle had been carried 70ft in a collision with a train at a barrierless level crossing near Crediton, Devon. Both were taken to hospital but later allowed home.

Ashburton, who was on the Exeter to Barnstable train, said: "There was a terrible crash. The next thing I knew the car was being bounced along beside the train and I could see a child in the back being thrown about. It is amazing anyone came out of that car alive."

Mrs Laura Dawe, who was at home

in Duke's Court, Crediton, with her second child, born four days earlier, said her husband was too shocked to describe the crash.

British Rail yesterday launched an inquiry into the accident. People who live near the crossing have complained that the traffic lights there have frequently failed in the past.

Threat to Montego and Rover

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

Production of the Austin Rover's new Montego and a new small Rover soon to be launched are threatened by a strike which has halted output of the Metro for four days.

The 700 strikers at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham plan to spread the dispute with mass picketing on Tuesday.

Their main target will be the section producing engines for the Copley plant near Oxford, where the Montego is assembled.

Ford returns to cut price war

By Our Motoring Correspondent

Ford is returning to the cut price war for new car sales, which it quit eight months ago, with bonus payments to its dealers of up to £350 a car.

The move, forecast by *The Times* on Tuesday, comes in response to sustained pressure from its dealers who have been losing out to their heavily-subsidised rivals at General Motors (Vauxhall and Opel) and Austin Rover.

Last night, Mr Sam Toy, chairman of Ford of Britain, said: "When we announced our withdrawal from dealer incentives early last September we

said that we would have to watch developments carefully and this we have done."

"Now after eight months it is obvious that our competitors are continuing with special and very substantial financial inducements at least for the foreseeable future."

The £350 bonus is on the Capri, Sierra and Granada. For the Fiesta it is reduced to £250. The Escort and Orion are not included in the incentive. The £350 bonus tops Austin Rover's £250 on the Metro and Maestro and General Motors' £125 on all models.

Glue curbs Bill backed by Brittan

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Harry Greenway gave notice yesterday that he would present a Bill on Tuesday to curb sales of glues and solvents.

The Bill would make it an offence in England and Wales to sell such substances to under-16s if it was known or there were reasonable grounds for believing they were likely to be inhaled to achieve intoxication.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said in a written Commons reply on Thursday that such a move would be desirable and ministers would be prepared to support a Bill.

Mr Greenway Conservative, MP for Ealing, North, has already been given the leave to introduce a Bill "to require manufacturers of glue for sale to the public to include in them an agent which will render them repellent." That is due for second reading on July 6.

Letters, page 9

Weapons in embassy 'planted by Libyans'

By John Witherow

The Foreign Office reacted yesterday to Libyan claims to have discovered guns in the British embassy in Tripoli.

While Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said the alleged discovery of five weapons and 20 gas canisters and two masks was totally unfounded, one of two British diplomats in Tripoli described it as a case of "presidentialism."

Mr Luce said: "Our assumption is that the pistols and ammunition were planted. There was ample opportunity for the Libyans to plant a number of weapons in safes and cupboards."

His statement was supported by the former ambassador, Mr Oliver Miles, who left Tripoli last week after diplomatic relations were severed. "There were no firearms there while we were there."

The Libyans issued serial numbers for the guns. These were being checked by Scotland Yard. They were described as three Smith and Wessons, a Webley and a Walther P38.

Police are searching for Libyans due to be deported. Two arrested in Sussex were put on a flight to Tripoli yesterday.

In Manchester armed police guarded a court when three Libyan students were remanded in custody on charges relating to a bombing on March 11 at a house in Whalley Range, where a Syrian woman and her child were injured.

Rig strike ends

Five hundred men on a North Sea gas rig 17 miles off the Humber have ended a three-week strike and sit-in over pay and conditions after employers agreed to begin talks.

Rail action threatened as talks fail

By Our Labour Correspondent

Rail services face disruption within two weeks in the latest phase of the long-running pay and productivity argument between British Rail and the unions. Commuter services in London and the South-east would be hardest hit by industrial action being planned by the unions.

A decision on the timing of the action, which will include a ban on overtime and rest day working and a work-to-rule, will be taken next Thursday by leaders of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef).

Mr Jimmy Knapp, NUR general secretary, predicted yesterday that "cancellations and delays will be inevitable for both passenger and freight trains" a view that was shared by British Rail.

Kinnock in post-poll mood of confidence

By Barrie Clement
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock showed a new mood of confidence yesterday and declared that Labour would now be in government and the miners back at work by Monday if Thursday's local polls had been a general election.

He told the Wales TUC at Llandudno that his first act as prime minister would have been to solve the two-month-old miners' strike.

Mr Kinnock recommended Labour's programme for economic expansion based on the principle that "you have to spend some to make some". The Government failed over the economy and was shirking its responsibilities in the miners' dispute.

He said that in the by-elections and council polls the voters had rejected Mrs Margaret Thatcher's "hysterical" attempt to make political capital out of the strike.

Referring to Mrs Thatcher's accusation that he was "the strikers' friend", he said people expected answers, not antics. He said Mrs Thatcher should have given new orders to Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, to ditch the pit closure plan.

Mr Kinnock's declarations constituted his strongest support to date for the miners. He said there would have to be a "mutually agreed" plan for the industry based on the declared policy of the National Union of Mineworkers that there should be no closures except of pits whose reserves were exhausted.

He detailed what he called Labour's positive proposals: "It is not sufficient to oppose unemployment. We must be for employment. It is not enough to bemoan contraction - we must be for expansion. It is not enough to oppose poverty - we must be for prosperity."

Pym's challenge

Mr Francis Pym, the former Foreign Secretary, challenged Mrs Thatcher yesterday to use Liverpool as a test-bed for the privatization of large coal deposits in Warwickshire and in Oxfordshire, north of Oxford. However, he added, in a speech to Liverpool University Conservatives that the Government must first commit more money to the city, monitor the experiment to ensure hardship was not being caused - and intervene if it did begin to go wrong.

£30m City tower 'would lead world'

The £30m glass and bronze office block planned for a six-acre site next to Mansion House in the City of London would be one of the world's most technologically advanced if completed in 1989, a public inquiry at Guildhall was told yesterday (Our Architecture Correspondent writes).

The 21-storey, 290ft tower was designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe who died in 1969. Mr Peter Carter, an architect

who worked with Mies, was giving evidence on the fourth day of the inquiry in favour of the design, commissioned by Mr Peter Palumbo who has spent 26 years acquiring the land to build the development.

The plan, which includes 178,000 sq ft of offices, an underground shopping centre and a piazza, is opposed by the City Corporation, the Greater London Council and various conservation groups.

Mr Carter said that the

building would have the finest materials throughout, as Mies had wished and would be totally flexible in use. He denied claims that the square would be a "windswept desert".

Earlier, in cross-examination, Mr Richard Rogers, architect of the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the new Lloyd's headquarters in the City, described Mies as the greatest classical architect since Palladio.

Letters, page 9

Private pit funds may be sought

Continued from page 1

Once the current dispute has ended, with what ministers and many Labour leaders feel, in inevitable defeat for Mr Scargill the right moment will be chosen to present the case for private capital.

While state control will continue and will be guaranteed, it will be stated that private development capital will secure more efficient production with cheap energy for industry, high wages for miners and good returns for investors.

There will, therefore, be a strong appeal to the self-preservation and self-interest of miners, who will be asked to put the interest of national and personal economy above the political interest of Mr Scargill.

£1m theft charge

Peter Craig Scott, aged 53, unemployed, of Maids Vale, north-west London was remanded on £11,000 bail until June 1 at Marlborough Street magistrates' court yesterday, accused of stealing as a trespasser 83 porcelain pieces and antiques, valued at £1,113,000.

'Huge rewards' from mining

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The potential rewards for any company moving into the British coal mining industry are huge. The investment required will be equally substantial, but comparable to North Sea spending.

The National Coal Board claims that Britain has reserves of coal which could last for 300 years at present consumption rates, and even the giants in the oil industry agree that coal is price competitive with oil and gas in the main markets, even when the extra cost of transport, storage and boiler equipment are taken into account.

The £400m Vale of Belvoir project, now renamed Ashfordby, is next in line for development by the board and is the first big project identified which could be taken over by the private sector.

Areas where NCB prospecting is continuing include Snaith, an extension of the Selby field, and north of York.

York, according to initial seismic research, is sitting on a large coalfield, but the NCB has shunned suggesting that a mine should be opened there on environmental grounds and because it has already identified enough modernization projects at existing mines to consume the £2m a week which

Britain's profitable coal mines

Pit	Area	£ per tonne profit
Daw Mill	S Midlands	12.5
Hagton Valley	Western	12.0
Thornaby	Notts	11.5
Betsw	S Wales	10.5
New Mine	N Notts	10.3
Clifton	N Notts	9.5
Shawdon	N Notts	9.5
Silverwood	S Yorks	8.5
Bagworth	S Midlands	8.7
Rossington	Doncaster	8.2
Yarnton	S Yorks	7.5
Florence	Western area	7.0
Shirbrook	N Derby	6.8
Ladston Luck	N Yorks	6.7
Shawdon	N Notts	6.5
Point of Ayr	Western	5.9
Bolsover	N Derby	5.7
Ellington	Northumberland	5.8
Capheaton		5.8
Derby Grange	Barnsley	5.5

Source: NCB

The Government is pouring into the industry.

The NCB is also planning to open a new anthracite mine in Wales at Cynheidre as well as a plant to produce Ancit smokeless fuel in the area.

These two projects would offer opportunities for the private sector. Anthracite has been in short supply since the 1950s when imports first started, and smokeless fuel has been identified as a potential growth as modern domestic appliances become increasingly popular.

Other potential projects being

considered by the NCB for development in the years up to and beyond 2000 include exploitation of large coal deposits in Warwickshire and in Oxfordshire, north of Oxford.

Large deposits have also been confirmed in Scotland in areas stretching out under the North Sea.

However, although the NCB and the private mining sector knows where the coal in Britain lies, what is less clear is at what cost the coal could be extracted and how high the demand will be from the main customer, the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Figures available to the industry show that coal at Belvoir and in Warwickshire will be produced at nearer £40 a tonne than the £30 a tonne being predicted for Selby. At that level the NCB can make profits from such fields even with its unprofitable other pits in the same area. A project such as Ashfordby if privately owned, would therefore be highly attractive.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$20-25; Belgium \$15-20; Canada \$15-20; Colombia \$15-20; Cyprus \$10-15; Denmark \$15-20; France \$15-20; Germany \$15-20; Greece \$15-20; India \$15-20; Indonesia \$15-20; Italy \$15-20; Japan \$15-20; Korea \$15-20; Malaysia \$15-20; Mexico \$15-20; Netherlands \$15-20; Norway \$15-20; Pakistan \$15-20; Peru \$15-20; Philippines \$15-20; Poland \$15-20; Portugal \$15-20; Romania \$15-20; Saudi Arabia \$15-20; Singapore \$15-20; South Africa \$15-20; Spain \$15-20; Sweden \$15-20; Switzerland \$15-20; Taiwan \$15-20; Thailand \$15-20; Turkey \$15-20; USSR \$15-20; USA \$15-20; Venezuela \$15-20.

PARLIAMENT May 4 1984

Moves to make NHS more efficient

COMMONS

The report of the national health service management inquiry by Mr Roy Griffiths and his team was a key element in the continuing and sustained strategy that was needed for improving performance in the existing structure of the health service. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said when opening a debate on the report in the Commons.

The most important step recommended by the report was to establish at all levels in the health service clearly defined management functions. This epitomized the fundamental message of the Griffiths report which was the need for a more dynamic management style in the health service.

The report of the Select Committee on Social Services provided clear confirmation that the basic Griffiths analysis of health service management was right. He would be publishing his conclusions on the Griffiths report and his formal response to the select committee report later this month.

Patients sometimes felt the health service was not being run with them in mind but more to suit the purposes of the system itself. That system was often a recipe for inertia. They were not getting the best value for money in all areas, several of which could be organized in a more cost-effective way.

For example, scrutiny of the NHS transport system showed there were more vehicles than people to drive them and the result was a large number of expensive vehicles standing idle at any stage. It was estimated that £15m a year could be saved by action in this area.

We are not embarking (he said) on another major structural upheaval. It is clearly desirable that the people who are responsible for treating patients should have a say in ensuring that resources are where they are most needed.

He would give health authorities flexibility over the timing of changes. Generally the general managers would need to be full-time, but in some authorities and at unit level it might be possible to combine the post with other duties.

Mr Michael Mescher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social services, said this was another major upheaval of the health service and would throw it into a fresh organizational turmoil.

If the consensus management principle was thrown over the Labour Party would consider

structure of management if everyone did not know exactly who the general manager was and what was expected of him. The general manager should be separate from the team of officers and he should be above them and seen to be above them.

Mrs Renee Short (Wolverhampton, North East Lab), chairman of the Select Committee on Social Services, said that the idea of a chief executive in the health service had been raised before and always discarded. The Griffiths report had resurrected it and it was interesting to note that the initial enthusiasm for the idea among the professions had become muted. They were now opposed to it because a general manager would overturn consensus management which was working reasonably well, although there was room for improvement.

The Secretary of State could let the whole matter drop and be satisfied with the stimulus of self-examination for better efficiency given by the report to the health service as a whole. It was clear that better management could be achieved within the present system, especially if team chairman took this on board.

Dr Brian Mawhinney (Peterborough, C) welcomed the concept of the general manager. He said that running a hospital, by definition a cooperative venture, there had to be a degree of consensus, a meshing of various disciplines for the benefit of the patient. In that sense consensus

would always be a part of the treatment of patients.

He had increasing concern for what passed these days for clinical freedom. The medical profession attracted to itself ever growing powers and responsibilities and when challenged covered it all with clinical freedom. He was a stout defender of the concept, but there had to be some understanding of where clinical freedom stopped and general management responsibility began.

Increase in jury nobbling

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said, when the House of Lords gave a second reading to the Juries (Disqualification) Bill, that he suspected there had been an increase in cases of jury nobbling in recent years.

The Bill, introduced by Lord Reuben, disqualifies from jury service for 10 years anyone who has served any part of a custodial sentence, or received a suspended sentence, or been made the subject of a community service order.

It also disqualifies for five years anyone who has been placed on a probation. The existing disqualification for life for those who have been sentenced to imprisonment or custody for life, or for terms of five years or more, remains unaffected.

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On May 6th in Beirut, thousands of people of all denominations and from all areas of the city, plan to walk to the dividing "Green Line" and meet in a gesture of peace and as an act against the continuing bloodshed.

We, Lebanese abroad today, unable to join them, fully support the courageous Peace March of the 6th May in Beirut and its purpose of bringing the Lebanese together to assert their will for peace.

In the name of the vast, unheard majority of ordinary Lebanese citizens, we call for an immediate end to hostilities and the start of an uncompromising search by each and every Lebanese for peaceful and just solutions - through dialogue not war.

Let us now step forward for peace in Lebanon

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Supporters of the Beirut 6th May Peace March

64 Parkside, London SW19 5NL

May 20 1984

Duke of Norfolk stands by speech attacking Catholic birth control ban

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Duke of Norfolk said yesterday that he stood by his criticism of the Roman Catholic Church's official ban on artificial birth control, but he "very much regretted" that he had embarrassed Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, by making it.

A Catholic newspaper *The Universe* reported yesterday the address given by the duke, the senior Catholic layman in Britain, to a Catholic teachers' conference last weekend. In a wide-ranging and at times light-hearted review of the state of the church, he told *The Times* yesterday, he had said that the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* was "nonsense".

In the document, issued in 1968, Pope Paul VI reiterated the church's opposition to contraception.

The duke, a retired major-general, used soldier's language to the conference, referring to contraceptives as "French letters" and to the sexual

frustrations of merchant seamen. He said he had not realized he was being reported.

In 1980, at the Roman Catholic pastoral congress in Liverpool, he took part in the discussion of sex and marriage. He said the feeling clearly was that lay people wanted church teaching "corrected", and he had told Cardinal Hume so himself.

The duke said that the issue of contraception was one of a series of issues in which the Roman Catholic Church had found it impossible to admit it had made a mistake.

He added: "Another thing where I think the church simply must get it right is *Humanae Vitae*, because I said quite openly they allowed people to limit the size of families by the Billings [rhythm] method, and so on, but if you do it with other means, condoms and pills and so on, you are not allowed to do it. But you are allowed to cut

bodies up: why have we got to be Christian Scientists over sex? What about the merchant seamen who come back home? It takes the love out of it... Then I talked about trade unions."

Elsewhere in his speech he attacked unilateral nuclear disarmament as advocated by Mr. Bruce Kent, which he called "absolutely round the bend", when the Soviet Union had nuclear weapons. Theologians should produce a theology of nuclear deterrence, he said.

Father Anthony Churchill of the Catholic Information Office said yesterday that the duke was speaking for himself. The church's moral teaching, as repeatedly emphasized by Pope John Paul II, was that "each and every marriage act must remain open to the transmission of life".

It was said on Cardinal Hume's behalf that he was making no comment on the matter.

Ward infection may have killed patients

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some patients may have died and more than 190 have been infected by a bacteria which has been breeding in a hospital for almost two years and is resistant to most commonly used antibiotics.

An isolation ward has been used for three months at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, in an attempt to contain the infection, which frequently occurs in wounds. Eleven patients are now in isolation.

Some surgeons at the hospital have suspended non-urgent operations because of the risk of patients becoming infected from others carrying the bacteria. A spokesman said yesterday that the outbreak had been "disruptive".

The bacteria is a strain of *Staphylococcus aureus*, one of the commonest infectious micro-organisms.

The hospital said yesterday it could not be sure whether any patients had died from the infection. "The major factor in the deaths of patients who were infected was the original complaint for which they had been

admitted", Mr. Andrew Dillon, deputy administrator, said.

Many of the 900 nursing staff at the hospital have been screened regularly against the infection and the hospital now believes the outbreak is under control.

The infection was officially recorded by the hospital in October 1982 but it had then been suspected for several weeks.

The hospital's microbiologists have tried various techniques to control it. The hospital administration believes the worst may now be over thanks to isolation techniques and antibiotics to which the bacteria is less resistant.

Mr. Dillon said: "Any infection in a hospital has to be regarded as serious but the problem has been removed from the general ward areas and admissions are not affected."

"We are encouraged by the results of the techniques we have developed and it may well be that other hospitals around the world will benefit from them."

House prices rise 3% in three months, survey says

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices increased by 3 per cent in the three months to the end of April 1984, according to the Halifax House Price Index. New property prices rose by 3.8 per cent and first time buyer prices by 2.9 per cent.

In the 12 months to the end of April, house prices increased by 6.5 per cent. The figures come from the second edition of the new monthly bulletin produced by the Halifax Building Society. The society says that the index, which makes allowance for the changing "mix" of mortgaged properties, provides the most reliable indicator of price trends.

Mr. John Spalding, the society's chief executive, said that the latest figures continued to show the steady but gentle rise in prices that was needed to support a confident market. "A strong flow of mortgage funds, an active housing market, and a moderate rate of house price movements can and should coexist. We still believe that house price inflation in 1984 will stay in single figures."

The 3 per cent increase in the past three months compares with an increase of 3.9 per cent in the same period last year. The increase for the whole of last year was 7.3 per cent.

'Chauvinist' husband divorced

The "male chauvinism" of Mr. Andrew Hulford earned his wife Jacqueline a divorce yesterday.

Mrs. Hulford liked to go out and meet people and have some independence. Mr. Hulford, aged 44, believed a wife's place was in the home and her duty was to look after husband and children.

When Mrs. Hulford, aged 33, dressed up to go out, her husband made "side" comments about smartening herself up to try to attract other men.

If she met other men, he would become jealous. Mr. Justice Sheldon said in the High Court Family Division. He "begrudged her any independent life".

The judge said that Mr. Hulford had behaved "repugnantly". His wife could no longer be expected to put up with "the plague of repetitive suspicion".

Although Mr. Hulford denied behaving badly and that his



Mr. Andrew Hulford "begrudged his wife Jacqueline any independence".

marriage had broken down, Mr. Justice Sheldon granted Mrs. Hulford a decree nisi.

The couple, who have a young son and daughter and live in the same house at Elsenham, Essex, married in 1977. Both had been married before.

Mr. Justice Sheldon said that about three years ago there was a "serious rift in their relationship". They stopped making love in 1982.

Mr. Hulford said afterwards:

"I don't see myself as having the attitudes of a Victorian husband."

"I do not accept that I was domineering or chauvinist. I just consider myself to be an ordinary English husband. I like to come home from work and see my wife and kids there. And I like my wife to stay at home with me in the evening. Any husband would."

"I still think there is hope for our marriage even after what has happened. I still love her."

Vet duped in racing swindle, court told

A veterinary surgeon unwittingly gave a false identity to a horse at the centre of a racing swindle, a jury heard yesterday.

Betting coup plotters called in Mr. Philip Dixon to register the name of a grey gelding under routine racing rules, York Crown Court was told.

Mr. Dixon admitted that he failed to notice that the horse, presented complete with the papers of a two-year-old, was in fact a three-year-old which looked like the gelding.

The prosecution alleges that the horse, which had already been officially named Good Hand, then adopted the identity

of an unraced two-year-old and was named Flockton Grey.

Mr. Geoffrey Rivlin QC, has told the jury that Kenneth Richardson, a millionaire gambler and businessman, masterminded the switch to achieve a multi-thousand pound betting coup.

Mr. Richardson, aged 47, of Jubilee House, Hurton near Driffield, Humberside; Mr. View Road North, Driffield; and Mr. Boddy, aged 39, of Hazel Close, Driffield, all deny a conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to obtain property by deception. The trial continues next Wednesday.

Merchants seek lower grain support prices

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association, representing corn and feed merchants, has called for a reduction in EEC grain support prices and for more attention to be paid to what it calls "market realities".

Its report this week to the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture reinforces the claim that cereal farmers are being unfairly protected at the expense of the livestock sector.

However, the association's officials yesterday flatly denied expressing support for the contention by the National Pig



Galloping grievance: Stable lads exercising race horses at Newmarket Gallops yesterday. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst.)

Stable lads 'fear to act' in pay dispute

By Michael Horsnell

At Newmarket this afternoon the champagne corks will be popping like starting pistols as the owner of the Two-Thousand Guineas winner contemplates perhaps as many millions in stud fees as his horse has hooves.

Yesterday, the first colts' classic of the flat season was in the minds of everyone at the headquarters of British racing where the stable lads were out on the Heath at the crack of day as usual with their strings of thoroughbreds, dreaming as thousands of their predecessors have of riding into the winners enclosure.

Reality, however, is an average gross weekly wage of £78.75.

The stable "lads", some of whom are grandfathers, are at

the centre of a pay dispute which could repeat the industrial action of the mid 1970s, when there were sit-ins at several courses.

Negotiations on behalf of 5,000 stable lads have broken down after the refusal of the National Trainers Federation to go to arbitration.

At issue is a 5 per cent pay offer the trainers have "imposed" on the stable lads, and their failure to pay the agreed overtime premium to lads away at race meetings.

The 65 per cent of lads who belong to the Transport and General Workers' Union have a doctored champion in Mr. Ron Todd, its national organizer.

But like nervous thoroughbreds in the starting stalls they are hesitant about beginning industrial action for there is

said to be a trainers' black-list with the names of those who took part in such action in the 1970s.

The union is to appeal for support to the Jockey Club and the Horserace Betting Levy Board in the hope of avoiding direct action.

Under the National Joint Council for Stable Staff agreement, signed in 1976 by union and trainers, the stable lads should receive time and a half for every hour worked over 40 hours.

They are receiving a non-taxable subsistence allowance of £4.20 a day - but this should be in addition to their overtime. A proportion, 4.5 per cent, of winnings is paid to stable staff, but for the most successful stables that means an average of £83 a year.

Many of the lads, whose day begins at 7.30 am when they collect, muck, head, collar and groom the kit from the saddle room, find themselves training five horses each when the recommended ratio is three to a lad.

One stable lad at Newmarket, aged 20, told me: "No one with any sense really wants to stick his neck out because the trainers have the upper hand and we do not want to find ourselves out of a job."

"The trouble is we love the horses and we are being exploited because of it. It is a hard life and the trainers know we have always been prepared to put up with it."

"Those who have stood up to be counted are well known and you will not find many of them in the stables anymore."

Extra tunnel urged for London's M25

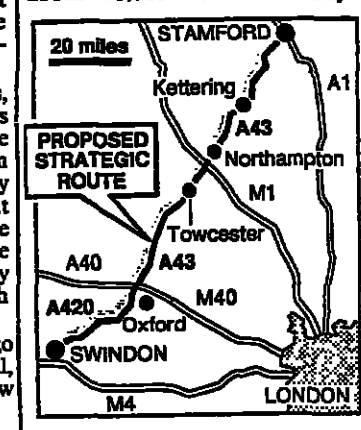
By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Holiday motorists using London's M25 orbital motorway face serious delays within five years unless the Government starts a third Dartford Tunnel now, the road lobby group Movement for London said yesterday. A two-lane tunnel would cost about £200m.

The two tunnels carrying the M25 under the Thames are a built-in bottleneck, Mr. Jeremy Hawkesley, the group's director, said. Their maximum capacity of about 70,000 vehicles a day

compared with a predicted 90,000 by the mid 1990s. That could mean delays of up to half an hour approaching the tunnel for much of the working day.

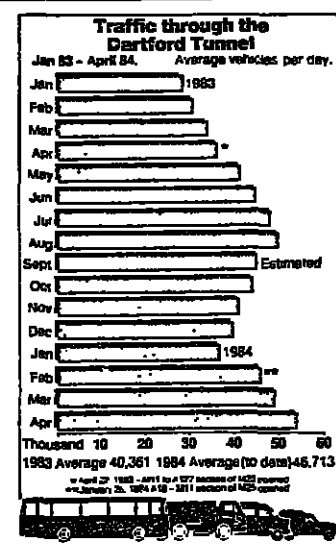
The Government has so far refused to consider a third tunnel, saying that 12 new toll booths to be built by the end of 1985 to speed traffic, plus the proposed £112m suspension bridge upriver between Barking and Eltham to be built by 1995 would cope with expected traffic.



New M4-A1 link sought

A strategic road link between Swindon on the M4 and Stamford on the A1 is urgently needed, Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, has been told by the British Road Federation.

The present route is of poor standard. Many roads are single carriageway, although they link the North-east and South-west. In 1978, the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr. William



Forecast of gloom for software

By Bill Johnstone

Retailers and distributors will become more selective about the home computer programs they stock in future and will buy only one in five of new computer games, a report published yesterday claims.

The study of the home computer software industry by Gowling Marketing Services concludes: "The software industry is facing a number of problems which could result in possibly half of the companies ceasing to exist in their present form by 1985."

It says about 7,000 titles of home computer software are marketed in Britain and at least 92 per cent of the 380 companies producing the software are producing one new title every month.

Last month's report, by the Economist Intelligence Unit, of the software market, projected that £400m worth of programs will be bought for British homes in 1988, half for education.

Report: UK Home Computer Software Industry (Gowling Marketing Services, Fenwick Street, Liverpool L3 7NA, £90).

Muhammad Ali expelled by magicians

Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has been removed from membership of the British Magical Society after showing television viewers how he performs his favourite tricks.

Mr. Barry Gordon, the society's secretary said yesterday: "When Ali came to Britain several years ago he did a number of magical items on some of his interviews and we decided it would be a nice gesture to welcome him to the brotherhood."

"Now, however, he has broken the cardinal rule of all magicians by exposing how the tricks are done and we have decided to remove his name from our list of honorary members."

"He has not been informed personally of this but we have made a statement announcing it to the magical press."

Injured squash player's suicide

A squash enthusiast hanged himself after being forced to give up the game, an inquest was told yesterday. Mr. Frank Dixon, aged 50, of Crooke Road, Deptford, south London had lost part of his sight when he was hit in the eye by a racket.

He left a note saying that he was depressed. The Southwark coroner, Dr. Arthur Gordon-Davies, recorded a verdict that Mr. Dixon killed himself.

Telecom drops London move

British Telecom has scrapped a multi-million pound project to transfer its national network from several buildings in the London area to Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

The original plan was to accommodate about 1,200 under one roof but the figure has grown to 2,200 so it has now become impractical.

'Nip' radio advert offensive

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has censured the makers of a radio commercial in which the comedian, Mel Smith, referred to the Japanese as "Nips".

Two listeners complained that the commercial, for the Dutch electronics firm, Philips, was offensive to the Japanese. The authority's advertising control division has upheld the complaint and asked for the advertisement to be amended.

Four on cancer fraud charges

Four men were yesterday committed for trial at the central Criminal Court, accused of setting up a charity, Children With Cancer, to obtain property by deception and defraud firms and individuals of money.

Alan Clements, aged 48, from Plaistow, North London; Adrian Roman, 31, from Enfield, north London; Robert Barker, aged 31, from Barking, east London; and Anthony Ross, aged 61, from Kenyon, north London, were retained on bail.

Michelmores ill

Cliff Michelmores, the BBC television personality, was admitted to a Surrey hospital with chest pains yesterday. He was said to be conscious and in a comfortable condition in the intensive therapy unit.

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Pope defies tight Korean security to mingle with leprosy victims

Sorokdo, South Korea (Reuters) - The Pope startled his security guards by moving unexpectedly into a crowd of deformed and disfigured lepers when he toured a hospital yesterday.

He shook the lepers' hands and patted their heads when he visited Sorokdo National Leprosy Hospital about 200 miles south of Seoul on the second day of a stay in South Korea.

Earlier he visited the city of Kwangju and urged forgiveness on bereaved relatives of 189 people killed in an anti-government uprising there four years ago.

In a message that touched political sensitivities, he told a group of newly converted Roman Catholics about to be baptized that they "must pardon those who may have sinned against you".

In so doing, the Pope said, "we can offer hope to those who suffer from oppression".

It was the second time he had referred obliquely to the political problems of South Korea, whose Government has been accused of infringing human rights.

On arriving in Seoul he said Korea needed human rights and justice. In a speech prepared for delivery to diplomats, he said: "Peace is threatened wherever the human spirit is oppressed by socio-political or ideological dictates".

He described as an act of naked terrorism a bomb blast in Burma last year which killed 17 South Koreans, including several government ministers.

In Kwangju, about 70,000 people shouted *viva papa* and

waved South Korean and Vatican flags when the Pope arrived to say Mass at an open air stadium.

Maximum security was in force during the visit. Police said they were offering a 20 million won (about £26,000) reward for information about any plots to kill the Pope.

University students demonstrated against the government in Seoul. Eyewitnesses said about 1,500 students and police traded stones and tear gas across a campus fence.

During a demonstration on Thursday night, tear gas drifted towards the Pope while he was visiting a seminary but it did not affect him, a Vatican office representative said.

The Pope meets farmers, workers and seamen in the southern port of Pusan today.

Police seal Sakharov flat in Moscow

From Richard Owen
Moscow

Police last night sealed the Moscow flat of the wife of the dissident physicist, Dr Andrei Sakharov.

The Soviet Union accused the American Embassy here of planning to give political asylum to Mrs Elena Bonner to signal the start of a coordinated anti-Soviet campaign in the West.

Dr Sakharov, widely praised elsewhere for his human rights stand, is regarded by the Kremlin as a traitor. He was exiled to the closed town of Gorky four years ago. Soviet officials say this was to preserve his sanity - a hint that he is mad - and to prevent the man who pioneered the Soviet H-bomb programme from revealing state secrets.

Yesterday's attack on Dr Sakharov by Tass was believed to mark the first time the Russians have directly accused America of helping Dr Sakharov to continue to speak out from exile. Tass said American diplomats had used diplomatic channels to send material received from Mrs Bonner out of Russia. It named a First Secretary, Mr Edmund McWilliams, and two Second Secretaries, Mr George Glass and Mr Jon Purnell.

Tass said "competent Soviet agencies" - an apparent reference to the KGB - had recently uncovered "a far-reaching operation masterminded with the



The Sakharovs: Moscow has accused Washington of anti-Soviet plot.

involvement of American diplomats".

The American plan, Tass claimed, was for Mrs Bonner to seek asylum just as Dr Sakharov was beginning a hunger strike. Mrs Bonner would then have met foreign correspondents inside the US Embassy to disseminate "mendacious allegations about the Soviet Union and all kinds of falsehoods about the position of her husband, Sakharov".

An American Embassy spokesman said these allegations were wholly unfounded. No discussions had taken place with Mrs Bonner about embassy asylum.

Tass said Washington would then have tried to arrange for Mrs Bonner to leave Russia on the "far-fetched pretext" of poor health so she could become "a leader of the anti-soviet scum on the payroll of Western intelligence services".

The plot had been foiled thanks to "timely action" by Soviet law enforcement agencies and a protest had been lodged with Washington, listing details of direct involvement by American diplomats.

Both Dr Sakharov and his wife suffer from heart ailments and Dr Sakharov has prostate and other problems. He has been refused treatment

at the Academy of Sciences clinic in Moscow, although he is still an academician.

Tass said the sponsors of the "provocative operation" to get Mrs Bonner out of Russia were trying to talk themselves out of their responsibility by claiming hypocritically that they had been motivated by humane considerations.

Those now shedding "crocodile tears" over Dr Sakharov were making a hero out of a man who had poured scorn on his own people and had openly urged war and the use of nuclear weapons against Russia - a charge often made against Dr Sakharov by the Kremlin.

Duke meets hostility on Danube

Vienna - The Duke of Edinburgh's advice to Austria to abandon plans to build a power station on the Danube because it will destroy a nature reserve has annoyed members of the Government here (our Vienna Correspondent writes).

Chancellor Fred Sinowatz dismissed the Duke's remarks on Thursday as "inappropriate and superfluous foreign demands".

Dr Bruno Kreisky, former Chancellor, called for a reply from the highest government level.

Joe Cocker

out on bail

Vienna (AP) - Joe Cocker, British rock singer, released from prison here last night after 36 hours arrest, said the Austrian authorities had dropped accusations against him of accepting money for a May Day concert which he missed. But the investigating judge said he was out on bail and the case would continue in his absence.

Both Cocker and his European tour manager were held after the show's promoters claimed a loss of £15,000.

Brinks sequel

New York (Reuters) - Kathy Boudin, leader of the radical Weather Underground, was sentenced to 20 years in jail for taking part in the 1981 robbery of the Brinks security agency in which two police and a guard died.

Pretoria to hold talks with Nujoma

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

Mr Sam Nujoma, the Swapo guerrilla leader, is to hold talks soon with a representative of the South African government in Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

Disclosing this at a press conference in Lusaka yesterday, Mr Nujoma would not give a date for the talks, but senior Zambian sources said they were likely to take place towards the end of next week, probably on

Friday. The terms of a possible ceasefire in Namibia are expected to be discussed.

The South African Department of Foreign Affairs has announced that South African forces completed the third phase of their withdrawal from Southern Angola on May 3, moving south from the town of Ewale to Ngiva, only 22 miles north of Angola's border with Namibia.

The withdrawal began on

March 1 under the terms of an agreement between South Africa and Angola in Lusaka on February 16, with the United States acting as mediator.

The department of Foreign Affairs said that cooperation between Angolan and South African forces serving on the Joint Monitoring Commission (JMC), which is supervising the South African withdrawal, remained good.

Iraq sees pipeline as test of US intent

From Edward Mortimer, Baghdad

A projected oil pipeline from Iraq to Aqaba in Jordan is regarded by Iraq as a crucial test of American sincerity and good will, according to Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

Mr Aziz, who is a close adviser of President Saddam Hussein, said in an interview with *The Times* that American finance for the proposed pipeline was essential because "the end of the pipeline is in al-Aqaba port, and it is very close to Israel".

"We do not have any confidence in Israel that it will not attack; that it will not threaten the usage of this pipeline. Therefore, if there are no real practical guarantees, you cannot go and invest \$1.2bn (£350m) in a project which might be threatened, halted any time it will be at the mercy of the Israelis."

Therefore, Iraq had asked the United States to finance the project. "That does not mean that we cannot provide the financing", Mr Aziz said. "But when they do provide the financing, and then they make some linkage with this pipeline through involvement of interests, that will be a guarantee that the Israelis might not threaten it."

The linkage, he suggested, should take the form of "long deals with Iraq to buy oil from that pipeline to compensate - to pay for the investment." Iraq did not mind whether this was done directly by the US Government or by "a certain American company, backed and

supported and encouraged by the American Government" - a clear allusion to Bechtel, which is known already to have undertaken some studies on the project at its own expense.

The Americans, Mr Aziz said, had "not yet" agreed to give such guarantees. "They told us they are discussing it and studying it in Washington. We are waiting. Anyway, it is up to them to show their good will."

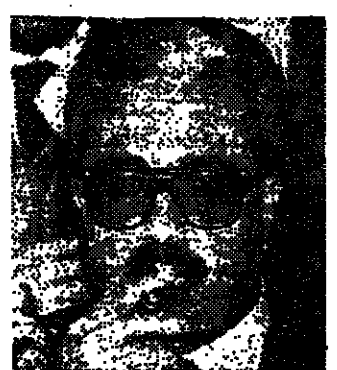
The other factor on which closer relations would depend, was the American attitude "on the flow of arms and military devices to Iran". Mr Aziz admitted that there had been "an improvement in the attitude of the United States towards the conflict in the last few months". Iraq had been told by US officials that they had been making some efforts "to convince some friends and allies in Western Europe and Asia not to deliver any weapons to Iran".

But he objected to the fact that, with the exception of France, "no Western country in Europe or Asia... has ever stated publicly that Iran bears the responsibility of the continuation of the war." Once or twice an American spokesman had said so, but only "in a statement when he was criticising Iraq for the alleged use of chemical weapons", thus maintaining an artificial balance between the two belligerents.

On the practical side, "a great percentage of the Iranian military arsenal is Western".

On relations with Britain, Mr Aziz said Iraq wanted good relations for many reasons. "But, frankly speaking, we haven't felt any real or strong willingness among the British governments to build such a relationship with Iraq". In addition, "We always felt that there is a grudge and prejudice in the British media against Iraq... and you don't feel any sympathy towards Iraq, specially in this war."

"The atmosphere is not friendly," he added, and went on to complain that Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Margaret Thatcher did not include Iraq in their tours of the area.



Mr Aziz: Guarantee needed against Israeli attack.

UN leader appeals for Palestinians

From Zoriana Pysarski
New York

Senior Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, in an allusion to the plight of the Palestinians, appealed to the American Jewish community to try to comprehend the frustrations and desperation of peoples who feel they have very little chance of ever standing with their faces to the sun.

He also took the opportunity of an address to the American Jewish Committee to announce his imminent visit to the Middle East.

"Surely it is for all of us who know the full benefits of civil and political rights to be particularly sensitive to the need for all, even those with whose opinions we may not agree, to enjoy these rights, in all their ramifications", he said, enjoining the committee to show greater understanding to Palestinians.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar is expected to take the message that the UN remains the only forum for achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement when he travels there.

Setback for Sharon in Herut vote

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

Mr Ariel Sharon, Israel's former Defence Minister, has suffered something of a setback in his efforts to make a political comeback and reassert his candidacy for the defence portfolio if the ruling right-wing Likud coalition is returned for a third term in the July 23 general election.

During elections to choose the 35 candidates from the Likud's dominant Herut Party who will join Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, on the final list, Mr Sharon only managed to come in ninth with a total of 394 votes, compared to the 571 for Mr Moshe Arens, the incumbent Defence Minister, who secured a convincing victory by topping the poll.

There was speculation that a number of committee members may have been frightened at the potential electoral damage which could result if Mr Sharon regained too much party influence after his period of political wilderness caused by the damning verdict of the Kahan commission report into the west Beirut massacres.

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Reagan will urge Britain to examine unity proposal of Irish Forum

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration is to urge Britain to give serious consideration to the recommendations for resolving the Northern Ireland problem contained in the report by the New Ireland Forum.

The report, which calls for a unification of the northern and southern parts of the island, has been given an enthusiastic reception here, particularly by the influential block of Irish-Americans in Congress.

Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem. Massachusetts) said the report may well be the best chance to break the intensifying cycle of killing and violence in Northern Ireland and achieve true reconciliation.

The Administration has been more guarded in its reaction and was waiting to hear from Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Foreign Minister, in talks at the State Department yesterday (Fri), before giving its considered opinion of the report.

However, Administration officials privately welcomed the report's findings and noted that President Reagan, himself an American of Irish extraction, has voiced his support for the efforts being carried out by the New Ireland Forum during a

visit to Washington by Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the Irish Prime Minister, in March.

The President is now likely to come under congressional pressure to raise the question of Northern Ireland and the Forum's recommendations when he visits Ireland and Britain next month. Mr Reagan is to visit his grandfather's home in Ballyporeen, Co. Tipperary, on his way to the three-day economy summit of industrialized nations in London.

His visit is seen in part as an attempt to capture the important (and traditionally Democratic) Irish-American vote in the November American presidential elections.

Representative Brian Donnelly (Dem. Massachusetts) has sponsored a resolution, supported by over 50 other congressmen, applauding the Forum's efforts and calling on all parties in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Irish Republic to review its recommendations "in the spirit in which they are offered - dialogue and hope".

A spokesman for Mr Donnelly said he hoped the House of Representatives would formally approve the resolution

before the President leaves for Ireland.

Aware of the significance of the US reaction to the Forum's report, representatives from both sides of the political divide in Ireland are in Washington to canvass support for or opposition to it.

Apart from yesterday's meeting with Mr Kenneth Dam, the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr Barry is also holding talks with Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker, and members of the Friends of Ireland - a group of Irish-American senators and congressmen.

Two Unionist MPs, Mr Peter Robinson and Mr William McCrea, held a press conference to denounce the report, they are unlikely to find much support for their views.

Mr O'Neill was undoubtedly speaking for more than his fellow Irish-Americans when he said: "Now it is up to the British Government and the Unionists to consider this report with open hearts and open minds. Permitting the status quo in Northern Ireland to continue is simply intolerable."



Comradely greeting: General Jaruzelski (right) being welcomed by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, at Moscow airport watched by Marshal Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister (left).

Warm Moscow welcome for Jaruzelski

From Richard Owen, Moscow

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, yesterday held talks with President Chernenko which centred on recent political violence in Poland. The general thanked the Soviet Union for "helping to stabilize the situation in the country".

General Jaruzelski's visit was planned before the outbreak of anti-Government protests on the streets of Polish cities during May Day rallies, but East European sources said the trouble had confirmed the

Kremlin's view that the general must crack down hard on opposition.

General Jaruzelski, who last visited Moscow in December, 1982, for talks with the newly-appointed President Andropov, was warmly welcomed at the airport, according to official Soviet accounts.

At the Kremlin the Polish leader found himself facing not only President Chernenko but also the three senior "old guard" leaders who guide much

of Soviet policy: Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, and Mr Andrei Gromyko.

A Polish commentary published in *Pravda* yesterday said the threat of civil war had passed in Poland and the Communist Party in Warsaw was reasserting its authority after a period of anarchy. More needed to be done, however, to establish firmly the communist

system and communist values in Poland.

Sources here said the Russians were still worried that the "military-communist regime" in Warsaw had not reestablished itself or earned popular respect after the Solidarity era. In his Kremlin talks, General Jaruzelski said much had been done recently to "strengthen ideological and political unity" in Poland and reestablish "the leading role of the party".

Leading article, page 9

Pentagon budget cut to placate Congress

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Bowing to bipartisan congressional pressure to reduce the federal budget deficit, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, has presented a plan to cut the Pentagon's fiscal 1985 budget request by almost \$14,000m (£9,655m).

The new request is for just over \$291,000m, which would represent a "real" increase in the Pentagon's budget of 7.8 per cent over the previous year, instead of the 13 per cent originally contemplated.

The revised budget calls for reductions in numbers of nine conventional weapons, including M1 tanks, attack helicopters and anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. Other conventional weapons programmes are being deferred or cancelled, but a planned 5.5 per cent pay rise for military personnel is going ahead.

None of the costly strategic weapons programmes, such as the MX missile, the B1 bomber

and the B5 submarine-launched missile, is affected by the proposed cuts. Mr Weinberger emphasized that the budget revisions "should not be interpreted as a change in the Administration's foreign policy of national security objectives".

In a letter to Congress, President Reagan made it clear he would not agree to any further cuts in defence spending as "that would be counter to our national security interests".

● **BRUSSELS:** The first American military technicians have arrived in Belgium to prepare for the deployment of cruise missiles, the Belgian Defence Minister said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Belgium has not yet formally accepted the missiles, but officials say it is a foregone conclusion, since Parliament voted last year to leave the decision to the centre-right Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens.

Death riddle of Kennedy son remains

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The cause of David Kennedy's death is to remain a secret while police continue their investigations. A judge has declared that disclosure of the details of a post-mortem examination would interfere with inquiries.

Mr Kennedy, who was 28, the son of the murdered Senator Robert Kennedy, was found dead in his hotel room in Palm Beach, Florida, last week. He had a history of drug taking and also suffered a heart condition sometimes associated with drug abuse.

An official in the local sheriff's office said last week that traces of cocaine and pain-killers had been found in Mr Kennedy's blood but since then there has been official silence about the post-mortem findings and the police inquiries.

Washington presents its side of Kozlov story

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Washington officials intend to have another meeting if necessary with Mr Sergei Kozlov, a Soviet mathematician on an academic exchange, to make sure that he is not being forced to return to the Soviet Union. Mr Kozlov is with Soviet Embassy officials here.

In a sharp statement on Wednesday the State Department rejected as "ridiculous" a Soviet protest that it had prevented Mr Kozlov, who was on a exchange programme in California, from leaving Washington on Monday evening for home.

It recalled that Mr Kozlov had repeatedly told American officials interviewing him at Dulles airport on Monday

evening that he wished to return to the Soviet Union. However, he then declined to board a flight to Europe but stated instead that he wanted to return to the Soviet Embassy, which he did.

Contrary to the Soviet protest, Mr Kozlov had been accompanied by a Soviet Embassy official throughout. "Precisely because of our concern for the individual involved we will not comment on Mr Kozlov's health. We urged the Soviet Government to dispense with false and self-serving accusations against the US and to work with us to bring this unhappy case to a conclusion which protects the rights and interests of Mr Kozlov".

Protests in Bonn at tax evasion amnesty Bill

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The Bonn Government yesterday laid before Parliament a Bill granting an amnesty to more than 1,000 German firms guilty of tax evasion on donations to party political funds.

The proposal, kept a closely guarded secret by the Christian Democrats and their Free Democratic allies, follows the scandal over huge illicit payments by the giant Flick group of companies and the subsequent revelation that tax evasion on such donations was widespread.

However, the Bill will not affect the case of Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, who is facing corruption charges in connexion with

money paid to him for his party by Flick.

The proposal, first announced by Dr Heiner Geissler, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) secretary, on Thursday immediately caused a political furor. The opposition Social Democrats were taken by surprise, calling it a blow against public justice and saying they would have nothing to do with this "dirty business". They announced that they would appeal against the Bill to the Constitutional Court.

The Greens' tax spokesman, Herr Otto Schily, said it was a "rapacious proposal" benefiting politicians who had demonstrated their "battered and shrivelled sense of justice".

Smiles but no results at Paris summit

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand and Mrs Margaret Thatcher emerged smiling and relaxed from their working lunch on EEC affairs in Paris yesterday; but, as expected, little progress seems to have been made on finding a lasting solution to the problem of Britain's contribution to the Community budget.

It was the first meeting between the two heads of government since the Brussels summit in March. Maintaining the tradition of total secrecy for such bilaterals, established by Mitterrand since taking over the presidency of the EEC last January, the leaders posed for photographers on the steps of the Elysee Palace after lunch, but declined to make any comment on the content of their talks.

Michel Vauzelle, the Elysee spokesman, said the discussions had been "courteous and precise" and marked by good will on both sides. Asked if any progress had been made, he replied simply that the issue had been defined, but indicated that there were no new proposals.

France saw Britain's budgetary problem as an integral part of the need for an increase in the EEC's "own resources" and the enlargement of the Community, he said. President Mitterrand planned to hold talks with all the EEC heads of state on those issues before the next summit at Fontainebleau on June 25 and 26.

He had already seen Signor Bettino Craxi and Mr Andreas Papandreu and hoped to meet Chancellor Helmut Kohl next, though on date had been fixed.

Preparations for the world economic summit in London from June 7 to 9 were also discussed by President Mitterrand and Mrs Thatcher. Earlier in the day M Roland Dumas, Minister for European Affairs, had surprised observers when he seemed to express support for the idea of a "multi-speed" Europe, with Britain left in a slower stream.

While insisting that Britain had a place in Europe, M Dumas said in a radio interview that "the idea of a Europe of several different speeds is gaining ground." If Britain did not wish to follow a particular aspect of Community policy, "it is not unthinkable that its partners will continue without it on a well-defined course."

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FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

Early in January this year, President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus submitted to the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr Perez De Cuellar, a framework for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem.

This week Cyprus requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council, to press for a resolution which would provide for specific mechanisms for the implementation of UN resolutions on Cyprus.

The Government of Cyprus wishes to release the full text of President Kyprianou's proposals to enable the general public to pass informed judgement on a problem which in its current deadlock threatens the security of not only Cyprus itself, but the whole of the eastern Mediterranean area.

1. A basic prerequisite to a solution of the Cyprus problem is for the Republic of Cyprus to be completely demilitarised. In the first instance all Turkish occupation troops should be withdrawn together with the colonizers imported from Turkey. At a later stage all troops provided for under the Treaty of Alliance (Greek and Turkish contingents) should be withdrawn, and the Cyprus National Guard and the so-called "Turkish Cypriot Security Force" should be disbanded. Demilitarisation is intended to contribute as an element of internal stability but also alleviate Turkey's paradoxical "fears" that Cyprus may be used against her militarily.
2. An international force under the auspices of the United Nations comprising men from countries with no direct involvement in the Cyprus problem should be stationed in Cyprus to secure its external defence and internal security. In addition, certain police duties could be allocated to it for an agreed period of time. This arrangement is not only essential for a solution to the Cyprus problem but it would also contribute towards consolidating a peaceful situation and creating the appropriate climate and conditions for the reunification of the country and the people. In such circumstances reconciliation and cooperation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots would be possible in a very short period of time.
3. The question of effective international guarantees is of great significance in view of the bitter experience of the past. The independence, territorial integrity, unity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus should be guaranteed by International Treaty. Interested powers should be excluded from participating in the Treaty. The duty of the guarantors should be a collective one and the use of force should be specifically excluded from the possible courses of action in the enforcement of the Treaty.
4. The Republic of Cyprus should be a Federal State. In considering the territorial and constitutional arrangements of a Federal Republic of Cyprus, the basis for solving these issues, as in fact all other issues and aspects, are the Resolutions of the United Nations and the High-level Agreements (Makarios-Denktaş 1977 and Kyprianou-Denktaş 1979). In determining the

territorial and constitutional issues the composition of the population of Cyprus must always be borne in mind. An outline of the solution envisaged follows.

5. Territorial Aspect

Despite the inherent dangers and constitutional difficulties involved in the concept of two regions or two provinces, yet this concept has been accepted.

It must of course be emphasised that the Turkish Cypriots constitute 18% of the population of Cyprus. Colonizers from Turkey and any other persons imported into Cyprus since the invasion in 1974 can under no circumstances be regarded as Cypriots. Despite the fact that the ratio of the Turkish Cypriot population is only 18%, yet it has already been stated to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 30th September 1983 that the Greek Cypriot side is willing to negotiate on the basis of 23% for the region or province to be under Turkish Cypriot administration. However, for the purpose of securing without delay an overall solution of the Cyprus problem, it would be possible to consider agreeing that 25% of the territory of the Republic be under Turkish Cypriot administration, provided that areas such as Famagusta and Morphou, which were thickly populated by Greek Cypriots, before they were forcibly uprooted from their homes by the Turkish invading forces, would be under Greek Cypriot administration.

6. Constitutional Aspect

It should be borne in mind that, under a Federal system, the regions or provinces will have considerable autonomy and powers. Therefore, any checks and balances at the Federal level should be restricted and be of such a nature as not to impede the smooth functioning of the Federal Government organs or lead to impasses and deadlocks. This is particularly important since, in a Federation, the powers and functions of the Federal organs are those which safeguard the unity of the State; and, therefore, if these functions are disrupted the State runs the danger of dissolution.

(i) Executive

The Presidential system provided under the 1960 Constitution is considered appropriate and should be preserved:

(a) There should be a President of the Republic, who should be a Greek Cypriot, and a Vice-President who should be a Turkish Cypriot.

(b) Provided that the process of taking decisions is such as not to lead to impasses and to the disruption of the smooth functioning of the State, the Federal Council of Ministers could include a higher proportion of membership of Turkish Cypriots than their population ratio namely the Federal Council of Ministers would be composed of 70% Greek Cypriot Ministers and 30% Turkish Cypriot Ministers.

(2) Legislature

In the circumstances of Cyprus, it is considered that a *unicameral* system is more appropriate. Mechanisms would be provided to ensure speedy resolution of any problems that might arise.

Alternatively, there could be a *bi-cameral* system consisting of:

a Lower Chamber: representation of the two Communities to be on the basis of population ratio; and an Upper Chamber: representation in the Upper Chamber would depend on the powers and functions of such Chamber and on the provision of deadlock-resolving mechanisms so as to ensure that the legislative process is not impeded.

(3) Judiciary

Equal representation of the two Communities in the Federal Supreme Court in respect of all federal matters.

(4) Powers and Functions of Federal Government and Provincial Powers

The powers and functions of the Federal Government to be such as to ensure the unity of the state. Indicatively, these should include:

- (i) Foreign Affairs (including Citizenship, but certain functions may be Provincially delegated);
- (ii) Federal Finance (including Customs);
- (iii) Defence and National Security;
- (iv) International Communications (air and sea);
- (v) International Telecommunications;
- (vi) Appointment of Federal Officers;

(vii) Natural Resources;

(viii) Federal Justice;

(ix) Co-ordination, harmonisation, standard setting and advisory functions;

(x) Provision for transfer of powers from Federation to Provinces and vice-versa if agreed.

List of extensive Provincial Powers to be agreed.

(5) Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (including the three freedoms of Movement, Settlement and -Right of Property) should be safeguarded both at Federal and Provincial levels, and should form part of the Federal Constitution.

Any arrangements with regard to the three freedoms (of Movement, Settlement and Right of Property) should relate solely to overcoming certain practical difficulties in their implementation and should not negate or restrict them.

(6) Economic Matters

The Economic and social policy of the Federal Republic of Cyprus should ensure the economic progress and development of Cyprus as a whole and should safeguard for all citizens of Cyprus an equal standard of living and equal opportunities to progress, development and welfare. Suitable machinery should be established to implement this policy for the benefit of the whole population. Thus, economic assistance will be given to less economically developed areas. Furthermore, measures could be discussed of a temporary, transitional nature, in respect of the economy, to take effect after a solution.

Issued by the
Press and Information Office,
Ministry to the President,
Republic of Cyprus.

CIA accused of launching Nicaragua air raids claimed by guerrillas

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua



Two American Congressmen who recently visited Central America said anti-Sandinista rebel leaders had admitted that air attacks against Nicaragua have been an exclusively CIA operation in which their only role was subsequently to claim responsibility.

Mr Wyche Fowler and Mr Bill Alexander, both Democrats, said in Washington that they had learnt from leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) in Honduras that the raids were the work of Latin American special agents under direct CIA control, on much the same lines as the widely criticized mining of Nicaraguan ports.

Sandinista officials to Managua said the disclosures confirmed their own repeated assertion that the CIA-backed counter-revolutionaries are a mercenary force.

In the Nicaraguan capital, Tegucigalpa, the rebel leader, Senator Adolfo Calero, said he was unaware that any senior member of his organization had met the Congressmen last week. But a well-informed source said the Congressmen had an informal conversation with one of the four-member directorate during a chance meeting at their hotel. Senator Calero reiterated his group's official position that all military operations are the work of rebel forces and have never

involved American citizens.

Nicaraguan sources said they believed the air raids were launched from landing strips built in Honduras by US troops during recent exercises, and that the mining operations were carried out from an American ship lying off the coast.

The allegation of further direct CIA participation in the so-called secret war comes at an embarrassing time for President Reagan. Congress, already furious about being kept in the dark over the mining, is soon to vote on his request for \$21m (£14.5m) to keep the rebels supplied.

SAN JOSE: Costa Rica has appealed to four Latin American countries to send observers to its border with Nicaragua after an exchange of gunfire between Sandinista soldiers and

Costa Rican police (Our Correspondent writes).

The State Department said in Washington that it is concerned about Nicaraguan aggression against Costa Rica. The US Embassy here announced it is speeding up delivery of military supplies to Costa Rica. These include two helicopters, 80 Jeeps and several boats.

The Civil Guard chief, Señor Oscar Vidal, said that he had ordered his men to "answer the fire" after six Sandinista mortar bombs landed several hundred yards inside Costa Rica near the Peñas Blancas border post. No one was injured.

However, Nicaragua's protest note said Costa Rican forces fired first and that the incident was designed to provoke further conflict between the countries.

On Wednesday, President Luis Alberto Monge ordered Costa Rican security forces along the border "to repel with all means possible" any new Nicaraguan attack. Costa Rica, which has no army and is protected by a 7,000-man civil and rural guard, has not previously responded to a series of minor Nicaraguan cross-border incursions.

Nicaragua, which has apologized for several of these, argues that they have occurred during fighting with anti-Sandinista rebels which use Costa Rica as a base.

El Salvador candidates fear time is running out

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The political battlelines are clearly drawn for tomorrow's presidential elections in El Salvador. Whoever loses will perceive the result as a disaster.

Feeling that time is fast running out for their country, that next year will be decisive in the civil war, both Señor Napoleón Duarte and Major Roberto D'Aubuisson despair over what the other might do in power.

Major D'Aubuisson fears that Señor Duarte will hold talks with the rebel Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and sell the country down the river to communism.

Señor Duarte fears that a policy of mass extermination of leftists by Major D'Aubuisson would provoke mass defections to the FMLN, greatly intensifying the bloodshed and leading finally to a rebel victory.

But it is the ultra-rightist Major D'Aubuisson of the Republican Nationalist Alliance party (ARENA), who seems most likely to taste defeat. The Christian Democrat Señor Duarte is far ahead in the polls and it seems that only brazen fraud can stop him winning.

Two independent polls conducted this week agree with the Christian Democrats' own projection that they will take about 65 per cent of the vote. In the first-round poll on March 25, with eight candidates compet-



General Eugenio Vides Casanova, the Salvador Defence Minister (left), who says the Army will remain neutral and Señor Napoleón Duarte, who is expected to win.

ing, Señor Duarte picked up 43 per cent against Major D'Aubuisson's 25 per cent.

The floating voters have apparently been repelled by Major D'Aubuisson's machine-gun style of speech, his bellicose nature and, in Señor Duarte - according to one poll - they perceive some hope that peace may yet be reached in El Salvador.

Logic says that Duarte must win but electoral fraud is a tradition here. "I'll remain anxious till the final result is proclaimed - officially," said an old and close political associate of Señor Duarte's. But even

enthusiastic supporters of Major D'Aubuisson are conceding privately that their man has no chance.

The FMLN has kept up its scornful rhetoric - *La Farsa Electoral* - in the second-round campaign but there has been no indication that the guerrillas mean to launch any disruptive offensives on polling day. The armed forces, nevertheless, are at full alert.

MEXICO CITY: Mexico has protested strongly to Guatemala against the killing of six Guatemalan refugees and wounding six others on its territory, the Foreign Ministry said.

It said in a strongly-worded protest note sent on Thursday that Mexico held the Guatemalan Government responsible for the killings "by armed men dressed in the uniforms of the Guatemalan Army" at a camp in southern Mexico.

GUATEMALA CITY: The former president of the Guatemalan Supreme Court, Judge Ricardo Sagastume, claims he was dismissed for refusing to cooperate with leaders of the country's security forces. He had accused the military and police of flagrant violations of civil rights and fundamental statutes of the judicial system.

Close finish expected in Ecuador contest

By Colin Harding

Ecuadorians go to the polls tomorrow for the second round of presidential elections, to choose between the candidate of the right, Señor Leon Febres Cordero, and the Social Democrat contender, Señor Rodrigo Borja Cevallos. Señor Borja, aged 47, an academic lawyer, is thought to have a slight edge in a close-fought contest, after narrowly beating Señor Febres Cordero in the first round in January.

Izquierda Democrática (Democratic Left), Señor Borja's party, is the best organized in the country, with strong representation in the slums of Guayaquil, Ecuador's main port, and among the new white-collar workers of Quito.

Señor Borja can probably also count on the support of a number of small left and centre-left parties, which between them control about 17 seats.

Señor Febres Cordero, a Guayaquil businessman closely connected with powerful commercial interests, has the backing of the traditional Liberal and Conservative parties. Whoever wins tomorrow will have a formidable task on his hands. Prospects for the oil market, which provided 68 per cent of Ecuador's foreign exchange earnings last year, are uncertain, and debts totalling about \$8bn (£5.6bn) have to be renegotiated.

Cosmonauts in fourth space walk

Moscow (Reuters)

Two Soviet cosmonauts on board the orbiting space station Salyut-7 carried out their fourth spacewalk yesterday to continue maintenance work on the craft's propulsion unit. Mr Leonid Kizim and Mr Vladimir Soloviyov spent 2 hours 45 minutes outside the space station and successfully installed a second additional fuel conduit, Tass reported.

The third member of the Salyut crew, Mr Oleg Atkov, remained on board, as in past spacewalks, to monitor their activities.

Mr Kizim and Mr Soloviyov were the first Soviet cosmonauts to carry out four successive spacewalks, and have spent a total of 14 hours 45 minutes outside the station in the past 12 days.

Previous earlier operations were also for maintenance work. The two men installed the first extra conduit last Sunday.

Soviet space chiefs reported in December that Salyut-7 had suffered a fuel leak, and Western experts believe that present maintenance work is to repair this or prevent another leak.

Tass said Mr Kizim and Mr Soloviyov would carry out further spacewalks, but gave no details. The three men have been on board the space station for 85 days.

Abrupt end to siege of Sikh temple

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi

The Government has abruptly lifted the siege of three Sikh temples in the border town of Moga in Punjab, and those who had taken shelter inside for eight days have been allowed to leave.

Two hundred Sikhs left in government buses for their home towns from one temple and 60 from another. It was explained unofficially that those wanted by the police were not inside, and that once authorities realized this they decided to lift the siege.

The whole affair was an anticlimax, because the authorities had surrounded the three temples, cut off their water and power and declared that no rations would be provided to the people living inside until they surrendered the culprits who had fired at the border security force on April 26.

What probably influenced the government decision was the ultimatum that the leader of the Sikh party, Akali Dal, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, had issued on Wednesday that, if the Government had not arranged to lift the siege by May 4, it would face "dire consequences".

He had also ordered the Sikh masses to move to Moga to lift the siege forcibly. Reports from Punjab say that large groups of Sikhs had begun moving towards Moga.

Mondale will profit from Hispanic vote

From Christopher Thomas, Austin

Texas goes to the polls today. It is a big day for small people who live in little places. Towns given romance by song and story - Laredo, El Paso, Eagle Pass, Del Rio - will venture a view on who should be President of the United States. It is an historic political moment for Texans whose first tongue is Spanish.

Texas is not all oil, gas, cattle and money. There is grinding poverty among Spanish speakers in the valley of the Rio Grande, appalling deprivation which survives because of a historical lack of official Texas philanthropy and because it is so much worse across the border. But Mexican Americans, after a decade of uneasy political emergence, are set to lay a political marker.

The man they are likely to choose in today's caucuses for the Democratic presidential nomination is Mr Walter Mondale, despite the undeniable appeal of the Rev Jesse Jackson, the man of the minorities.

But it seems that Mr Jackson is perceived by Texas Hispanics as black first, minority second, even though he garnered a good deal of Spanish support in New York and elsewhere - perhaps 15 to 20 per cent of those who voted.

Like all immigrants, first and second generation Mexican Americans are susceptible to the will of their leaders. It is therefore important to Mr Mondale that he has received the endorsement of just about every Hispanic leader in Texas, especially the influential Mayor Henry Cisneros of San Antonio. It will be remarkable if Mr Mondale takes less than 70 per cent of their votes.

Hispanics comprise 21 per cent of the population of Texas and 14 per cent of that of the region. They will probably account for a fifth of the turnout



Mr Mondale

in today's caucuses. Mexican Americans are Democrats almost to a man. The years that Mr Mondale has courted their support are about to pay off handsomely.

In today's voting, this new force is likely to be felt in record numbers. Not only caucuses are being held - there are primary elections to select candidates for posts like judges, county sheriffs, Congressmen and members of state school boards.

In the Rio Grande valley, home for the poorest, unemployment in some communities is 25 per cent. Hunger is as if as poverty wages. The crumbling Mexican peso has wreaked havoc on a highly interdependent cross-border economy. Last year, the citrus crop was devastated.

These are reasons enough for Mexican Americans to heed the call of their leaders and vote en masse. There are many who believe today will prove a landmark in political activism among Spanish speakers, setting the stage for a wider, national drive for that elusive goal of Hispanic unity.

If so, it would be fortuitous. This also happens to be Cinco de Mayo, Mexico's most celebrated national holiday.



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MARK 2 RENAULT 18TS £5,450*

Savings refer to manufacturer's recommended prices. Mark 2 Renault 18TS £5,450 and Ford Sierra 1.6 (with 5 speed gearbox) £6,384. *Price (correct at time of going to press) includes 15% VAT, Car Tax and front seat belts. Number plates and delivery extra. For a brochure write to Renault UK Ltd., PO Box 36, Southall, Middx. Ask your dealer about Renault Care mechanical breakdown cover. **West End showroom, 17 St. Martin's Lane, London, WC2. †Government Test Figures: 56 mph, 50.4 mpg (8.6L/100 km) 73 mph 37.7 mpg (7.5L/100 km). Simulated urban cycle, 28.2 mpg (10.0L/100 km). **Manufacturer's figures. RENAULT recommend ELF lubricants.

SPORTING
DIARYGet ahead
with a pie

I have it on the best authority that Hostess is with America's youth from the time they dream of Olympic gold to their moment of glory. Hostess fruit pies and cakes are part of the American tradition, like the Olympic spirit itself... that is the word from Hostess, one of the many sponsors of the summer's dollar Olympics in Los Angeles.

Hostess are not alone. The manufacturers of Budweiser beer, (some people pep it up by adding tomato juice, and ask for "Bud and blood") have paid £8m to become official sponsors of the United States Olympic team. Rival brewer Miller are sponsoring the cycling, ice hockey and skiing teams, as well as giving £2m for the U.S. Olympic training centre.

Any company can win the right to use the Olympic name and symbol, by spending £2m to advertise during broadcasts of the Games. The manufacturers of Snickers have become the official Olympic snack food suppliers (don't call it candy, still less sweets). They apparently want to reach "an active life style audience". It is unclear as yet which company will make the most profit from the Games, but as all advertisers know, it is not the winning that counts. It is the taking part.

The wingers

The members of the Saudi Arabian Olympic team have been offered a plot of land in the town of their choice by King Fahd. The Saudi national airline have come up with what must look an even better offer: a first-class ticket to anywhere the player likes.

Now I would have thought it was a handout enough to be called Imre Varsanyi, like the Sheffield Wednesday, former Newcastle footballer. But Kenny Kick plainly does not agree: he has called his new son Imre Varsanyi Newcastle United. I expect little Imre will turn out to be a cricket fanatic. More hard luck: the nearest first class county to Newcastle is Yorkshire.

Boxed in

The number of accredited journalists covering the next World Cup finals is to be substantially reduced. The last finals, in Mexico, were covered by a total of 7,290, or about seven times the average crowd at Hartlepool. In Mexico in 1986, a mere 4,900 accreditations will be handed out - 2,200 to newspaper hacks, 300 to photographers and the rest to television and radio. Already sports journalists are complaining, doubtless worried that they might be sent to Hartlepool instead.

Pitching in

Quote of the week: from the Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, after Chelsea supporters celebrated promotion to the first division in a series of pitch invasions: "It was high spirits from our fans, and I can't condemn them, for I once ran on to the pitch at a QPR-Brentford match. And if I'd been in the supporter's enclosure, I'd have been on the pitch as well. It was an emotional day." It sure was, especially for the three corners who ended up in hospital.

They're on

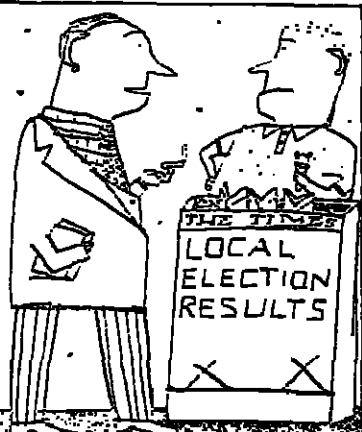
If you wish to get on in racing, always wear a hat, and never forget to shave. The crack Australian jockey Peter Cook lost a big contract in the United States by refusing to remove his beard. Still, hirsute riders can relax if they are hoping to ride for Toby Balding. Willie Higgins's new moustache will not alienate him from his master, a master who has given a leg up to such renowned jockeys as Davy Jones, singer with the unfortunately forgettable Monkees, and Clement Freud, MP. Another hopeful jockey, currently working in the Balding yard, is a Sikh.

Where's Henry?

So why was the trainer Henry Cecil so uncharacteristically absent from Sandown Park last Saturday? Rumours said he was in Paris, trying to patch up the row between the art-dealing Daniel Wildenstein, who owns 12 horses from the Cecil string, and Cecil's stable jockey, a fairly useful chap called L. Piggett. "He's a genius, but I will not dance to his music," said Wildenstein, who says Piggett will never ride a horse of his again. But Cecil is worried about finding a top rider for his Derby horse, Claude Monet, who won at Newmarket on Thursday. Piggett is worth a stone at Epsom, and Cecil has yet to win a Derby. And Wildenstein has been known to be, ah, flexible over jockeys. After once complaining that Pat Eddery was "not man enough to ride for me", Eddery rode Claude Monet last year.

Simon Barnes

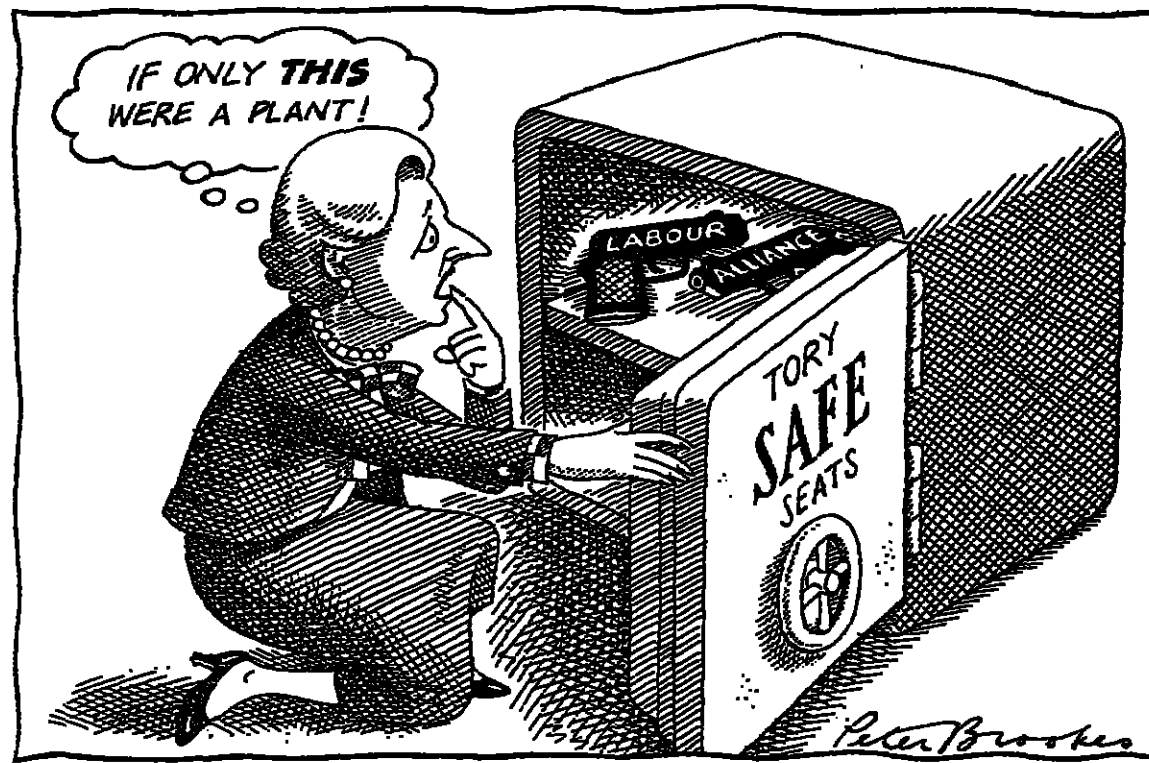
BARRY FANTONI



"It seems that Scarpill won't have to bring down the Government after all!"

David Butler analyses Thursday's election results

Widening the great divide



equals. The leaders of the two parties must have shuddered at the result at Inverclyde, where a local split between Liberal and SNP may have handed one of the few Liberal strongholds to Labour.

Election results are judged against expectations, not actuality. No one expected very much and no one was disappointed. The headlines about Labour's advances are justified by the party's capture of Birmingham and Edinburgh and its consolidation in Liverpool. But anyone scanning the full list of results will be struck by how small the changes were in most districts, and how often Labour actually lost rather than gained. Over the past 25 years there has been a growing division between Tory Britain and Labour Britain, between urban Britain and rural Britain, between North and South, between Scotland and the rest. The process was continued in a modest way on Thursday.

The few places where Labour made a net gain of more than two seats had a clear northern bias:

	Net Labour gain	When seats were last fought
Liverpool	+7	1980
Salford	+6	1982
Manchester	+7	1982
Birmingham	+6	1982
Edinburgh	+8	1980
Dudley	+8	1982
Walsley	+3	1982
Exeter	+4	1980

But Liverpool, at the head of the list, offers a confusing story. The seven gains were from the 1980 results. If we look at the votes which will be cited in the coming confrontation between the deputy council leader, Derek Hatton, and the Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, a different picture emerges.

	Con	Lab	Lib
1983	21	47	31
1984	19	46	34
	-2	-1	+3

The trends were conflicting even within regions. Labour's gains in Birmingham and Dudley were not

By-elections of this Parliament

	Majority	Change since Gen Election			
		Con	Lab	Lib	
Penrith & Border	(28.73)	Con 1.4	-12.8	-5.9	+15.7
Chesterfield	(1.34)	Lab 11.9	-17.2	-1.4	+15.3
Surrey S.W.	(3.54)	Con 5.9	-10.4	-1.5	+11.3
Stafford	(3.54)	Con 8.6	-10.8	+3.7	+7.1
Cynon Valley	(3.54)	Lab 38.9	-6.8	+2.8	-0.7
Net change			-12.7	-1.4	+14.1

Swings in Six Councils 1983-1984

	Con	Lab	Lib
Newcastle	-5.4	+2.1	+2.4
Liverpool	-2.4	-0.6	+3.0
Leeds	-2.6	+1.3	0.0
Sheffield	-5.2	+3.9	+1.2
Basilston	-5.5	+5.9	+1.8
Southampton	-2.4	+5.6	-3.2

As the 40th anniversary nears, Philip Warner calls for a reassessment

D-Day: secrets still to be told

On June 6 the Queen, Prince Philip, President Reagan, President Mitterrand, and some 50,000 other visitors will be on the Normandy beaches recalling the greatest seaborne invasion in the history of mankind. Also present will be many Germans who on June 6, 1944 did their very good best to prevent the invasion taking place at all. There will be French farmers and shopkeepers who once woke up to find themselves in the middle of a battlefield. There will, in fact, be something for everyone.

Inevitably there has been friction over the form the celebrations should take. The main ceremony will be on Utah Beach on the Cotentin peninsula, where the Americans landed a good mile south of their intended destination, but made a great success of it. The British and Canadian contingents came ashore further east, and in larger numbers, but the heaviest casualties were at "Bloody Omaha", near the centre, where the Americans edged ashore at fearful cost, which was thought by the Germans to have failed.

Almost any area except the one chosen seems more suited to the ceremonial, but the choice was not easy, for the invasion cost extends over 50 miles. Further inland there are other memorable battlefields, around Ranville and St. Mere Eglise, where you will find the parachutists. Some of those present, who may be mistaken for local businessmen, fought on battlefields many miles from here but made a decisive contribution to June 6 just the same. They will be members of the Resistance who blew up roads and railways and bridges over which the Germans were trying to rush reinforcements. D-Day was not won on the beaches alone.

Most battlefields retain a sombre, macabre look even hundreds of years after the last man was killed. Some, not surprisingly, like Verdun, Flodden and Agincourt, seem to be haunted. But the D-Day beaches, in spite of the reminders of the blood spilt there, evoke a different sentiment. It is of pride, almost of rejoicing. The Second World War was not so much a war against Germany and her allies as against the evil of Nazism. By the time the D-Day invasion took place the allies had no illusions about the crusade in which they were engaged.

Bombing at home, and the stories which had leaked out of Europe, left no doubts. Worse was to come when the horrors of the concentration camps were revealed, but already ordinary people were well aware of the jackboot, the Gestapo, and a tyranny that was imposed by bizarre but competent fanatics. It was five



Hello Tommy: a 1944 welcome to the Hampshire

years since Poland had been destroyed, three years since German bombers had pounded Britain night after night, killing thousands, but it would not be ended by waiting till the Germans got tired.

In fact the bombardment of Britain began again a mere week after D-Day, with the first flying bomb, and was soon worse than ever. Londoners, above everyone, wanted the invasion to succeed and to succeed soon. There was a typical wartime story: *Air Raid Warden* (to whom whose home has just been destroyed by a flying bomb: "Where's your husband?" "Woman: "In Normandy - the coward!"

Although relics of the invasion are still to be seen, many of those who took part will have difficulty in believing it ever happened to them. Was this really the sea which made hardened veterans so seashore that they did not care if they were killed immediately provided they could set foot on dry land? Nothing in the noise, confusion, and squalor seemed quite real.

One survivor, Mr. E. A. Neale, then a deckhand on a converted cargo ship, recalls "frantically bailing, laughing and crying hysterically" and "things were happening around me as if in a dream. I saw severed limbs and feet in buckets being thrown over the side of the ship and thought to myself without any feelings of repugnance how pink and clean they looked."

On land the worst sights are usually behind the first wave of the attack, unless it is checked, and doctors and chaplains who bury the

corpses, see most of them. One surgeon, Dr. Peter Johnson, was summoned to see "a man or woman was left of a man, lying on a door in the back of a truck. All was covered with a blanket, save for his head. No part of his face was not raw and torn, and his eyes were dull and opaque, wrinkled like those of a dead fish. He was conscious and moaning. I put my hand under the blanket and felt for his wrist. To my horror, all I could find was a bloody stump - and it was the same the other side too. He had a gash in his stomach and a large wound in his thigh. I gave him a large dose of morphine and bound up his stumps. Later, I heard he was 'doing well'."

At one point, as this doctor straightened up from tending another wounded man he was handed a letter by the post corporal, who was triumphant at having found him. He opened it - presumably with bloodstained hands. It was an income tax demand.

Mr. J. M. Leggate's operating theatre was a lean-to tent at the side of a truck. German and British wounded were all lying together and as he moved among them, assessing the priorities for operations, he "came to one very young British, lying between two British. 'No, don't bother with me,' he said. 'Take these two first.' He died in fact, before his turn came for operation."

For some years after the invasion many of those concerned, British and French alike, tried to push the events of this day out of their minds. Forty years later they have come to terms with their memories, which

remain as vivid as ever. Madame Bernadette Renou who was in Arromanches, recalls not only the events of the day itself, but even more the strange conversations and feelings of the day before the invasion. As she walked back from church she felt "as if she were wrapped in cotton wool".

The following morning, there was an excited call from a neighbour for her to come and look. "With the sun just coming up, we could see - a multitude of ships, but a multitude... What we felt is almost indescribable: we were suffocated by emotion, just suffocated. I have a son, and I have tried to tell him what I felt at that moment, but it just isn't possible to convey it."

The Countess Rohan Chabot was awakened in the early hours of June 6 by two British parachutists who knocked on the door of the château. She rushed to her husband and said, "The Tommies are here". He replied, "Don't be a damn fool. It's Germans dressed up. You will probably be taken out and shot."

"In that case," she said, "I'll go and do my hair, because it would be very bad for a Frenchwoman in my position to be shot with her hair looking untidy."

Some of the survivors of D-Day returned after the war to see if they could find again some girl with whom they had exchanged a hasty greeting. Some of them succeeded in the hunt, or found another, and married. Some even settled in the district and prospered greatly. Others who have found French brides came later with visits of veteran associations.

Members of British regiments have been made citizens of the towns they liberated, and firm and lasting friendships have been made, often between whole families. Even today survivors are trying to trace former comrades, or explain mystifying events. D-Day has not yet given up all its secrets.

Perhaps, with the advantage of 40 years' hindsight we should take another look at what really happened on D-Day and why. The original accounts, official or otherwise, were written comparatively soon after the event, before the existence of the British deception and decoding operation Ultra - a vital factor - was acknowledged, and long before many of the participants were free to speak. An earlier review would clearly have been premature, but if a fresh analysis is not made now it will soon be too late.

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Philip Warner's book, *The D-Day Landings*, is published by William Kimber, price £9.95.

Philip Norman

Just flinging in
the rain

I counted 12 of them in one corpse-strewn block between 65th and 66th Street: poor little bedraggled shapes trampled on the sidewalks or kicked into the gutter, their fragile wings crumpled, their brittle spines bent and protruding. The saddest orphan of a New York storm is the New Yorker's puny, pusillanimous umbrella.

This city of boundless technological expertise apparently cannot construct no better protection against its torrential cloudbursts than a cheap, dismal mélange of too-prompt spring and too-accessible spire whose behaviour under stress resembles nothing so much as a feeble-minded and hysterical bird. The New York umbrella has only two basic reactions: to be startled into premature flight or to turn inside out from heart failure. Small wonder that so few receive anything approaching decent burial.

In general America's best products are clothes and devices that shield one from the elements. America bows to no one in the manufacture of woollen jackets, fleece-lined boots, ski coats, mittens, goggles, ground sheets and windsurfing shoes.

But let Manhattan start sending down the storms that are not so much drops as lumps and crowsbars of rain, and the national weakness declares itself. Grown men stumble along, trying vainly to shelter under bucking scraps of black cloth already pulverized into grotesque shapes or extruding rods more lethal than Roadice's chariot-wheels. Smart women cower under exiguous coloured canopies, the positively pomp for joy at their power to ruin hairstyles or sabotage shoes. At corners, savage collisions - some-times out-and-out fights - erupt between tormented souls goaded to frenzy by these instruments of betrayal and self-loathing.

New Yorkers, in their deepest psyche, must hate and despise the umbrella. If this were not so, umbrellas would be manufactured from stout American timber and hardy American fabric, and offered proudly for sale in stores alongside work shirts and boots. They would not be these futile, dwarfish objects, most commonly obtained from street hucksters who spring up as instantly as the showers. One vendor I have seen on Fifth Avenue seems not to possess English even as a second language: his chant of

"ombray-la, ombray-la" sounds like some invocation to voodoo. I would not suppose that man to be much interested in repairs or after-sales service.

Most New York umbrellas proclaim their unreliability even as they lie there on the pavement. There is, however, an insidious model with certain superficial resemblances to the British multi-coloured golf umbrella - the kind that, in its pure, steel-shafted form, can withstand the fiercest gales sweeping over Glen-eagles. Duped by the colours and metal stems, I bought one of these imposters during a Times Square monsoon. I realized my mistake as soon as I tried to roll it up. You cannot, of course, roll up a New York umbrella. You can only grab at it, twist and bunch and stuff it round like the leg of one parish gaffer. Within two days it had given up the ghost of whatever golf was ever in it: I abandoned it to the sidewalk charnel house without a qualm.

It is not just for theatre that New Yorkers flock to London. I now realize: it is also for James Smith's splendid Victorian gold and glass umbrella emporium on New Oxford Street. I have seen them there often enough, ogling the City Gent models with whangie handles, the rainbow-hued golf umbrellas, the great monochrome fishing umbrellas, not to mention the silver-topped canes, ebony cudgels, even swordsticks. "... yes, sir, just like the one Sherlock Holmes used", the assistant murmurs. "I believe they're illegal in many parts of the United States..."

Each time the TV weathermen start grinning weakly and mentioning "some precipitation", I am tempted to write home for my good old golf umbrella with its trusty Fox frame. Then I reflect that New York cannot long permit any vacuum; that, some day soon, a book will appear entitled *Tough Times don't Last but Tough Umbrellas Should*; that "real" umbrella shops will appear down in the Village and classes in umbrella-rolling will begin in premises once devoted to yoga. (The two might even be combined.)

Meanwhile, the skies are darkening. From a Fifth Avenue corner, I can hear that voodoo chant, "ombray-la, ombray-la", mingled with the faint, fearful cluck of many a spring-loaded handle. Once again, the casualties are bound to be tremendous.

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Anthony Parsons

Bringing diplomats
to book

British diplomats are accustomed to violence. Stone-throwing crowds, the crash of breaking glass, the invasion and burning of embassy premises, the overturning and wrecking of cars, have become familiar accompaniments to their lives overseas. In recent times, kidnapping and assassination have been added to the list of dangers.

But all these manifestations have one thing in common. They are directed at diplomatic missions and their occupants. What made the tragic episode in St James's Square unprecedented was that the attack was launched by a diplomatic mission, leading to the killing of a police officer who was present in order to protect that same mission from harassment.

Those who are looking for someone to blame - apart from the Libyans - should bear this in mind. It is far easier to anticipate the recurrence of something that has happened than it is to predict the unprecedented. Wisdom after the event is easy. The event itself creates the wisdom, but decision makers have available to them only the knowledge of today, not the knowledge that tomorrow brings.

However, it is not my purpose to rake over the past, rather to look to the future. What better precautions should we take to try to ensure that nothing of the kind happens again in Britain? Colonel Gaddafi is not the only regime that is publicly dedicated to the support of revolutionary movements abroad and to the liquidation of its opponents wherever they may be, nor Libya the only country that has a community in Britain divided into ardent supporters and bitter enemies of its rulers.

There is much discussion of how to make the Vienna Convention more effective. This is an operation which should be approached with great care. In order to enable us to exercise more supervision over diplomatic missions in Britain, we might find ourselves proposing measures which, if adopted, would leave us worse off than those against whom they were aimed. A country such as Britain, with perhaps 200 diplomatic and consular posts and large communities overseas, depends on the inviolability of diplomatic premises and diplomats. It is far more than a small country with relatively limited overseas representation. It should never be forgotten that there is a basic rule of international diplomacy - reciprocity. What do you do to me, I will do to you, probably with interest.

And, if we decide to seek amendments to the Vienna Convention, the process, even if ultimately successful, will take years to complete. No one who has served at the United Nations would disagree. It is therefore to think that it would be wise, while pursuing the improvement of the convention for the long term, to take up with like-minded states, such as our EEC partners, the possibility of concerted action: i.e. that all the Ten should act similarly against any state which grossly offended on the territory of any member state of the Com-

munity. It is, of course, hard to envisage agreement on such action on a contingent basis. Given our commercial interests in Libya and the size of the British community there, would we have agreed to break relations if the St James's Square incident had taken place in the capital of one of our partners? Having suffered ourselves, I like to think that we would in the future be amenable to making such a sacrifice in a common cause.

My view is that the best remedy lies in a more vigilant scrutiny of the individuals seeking to enter Britain from states which, for domestic or ideological reasons, do not consider themselves bound by accepted international norms; whether these individuals are nominated as diplomats or as consular officials. We do so already so far as our consular adversaries are concerned: it is common practice to refuse to accept even a junior Soviet official if we regard him as undesirable. We should extend this rigorous attitude and make sure that no one is allowed to join the staff of a diplomatic mission unless we are as sure as we can be that he will behave according to the rules.

Perhaps the pooling of information about unacceptable individuals among Western foreign offices would be a useful step. If we slip up and some individual transgresses, Out! If the mission collectively behaves intolerably, Out! Of course there would be tit-for-tat retaliation against our mission in the country concerned, but we should be ready to pay this price.

The same doctrine should apply to non-official applicants to enter the country. If we judge that anyone's true reason for coming here is to pursue a domestic or political vendetta, the answer should be no, regardless of claims to student or tourist status. I am not suggesting that more vigilant screening of this kind would constitute an absolute guarantee. Of course not. But it might significantly reduce the risks.

A last word about relations with Libya. Colonel Gaddafi may affect the appearance and style of one of the dotter Roman emperors, but he can be shrewd. When he has overreached himself in his dealings with us in the past, he has set out to mend the broken fence.

In my experience, his assurances that the activity which caused the trouble will never again be repeated have usually remained valid for a few months only. On this occasion, I would be in no hurry to respond to overtures. I regret a break in relations with any country, particularly in the context of consular protection of British subjects, but I would want to be very sure indeed that there was going to be no departure from the strictest letter and spirit of the laws governing international conduct before I readmitted an official Libyan presence to this country.

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Sir Anthony Parsons, until recently foreign policy adviser to the Prime Minister, is research fellow at the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies, Exeter University.

الجمهورية العربية السورية



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BY-ELECTION BLUES

Mrs Thatcher's celebratory message for yesterday's fifth anniversary of her taking office as prime minister was to announce the beginning of her third premiership in due course. That part of the nation which polled on the day before appears to have delivered a muffled message of a different kind. But it gives the Prime Minister no cause to revise her plans. The opportunity to give or deny her that opportunity is a long way off. The scattered voting this week says nothing about when or what the result will be.

From the point of view of the Government the parliamentary voting on Thursday was a normal case of by-election blues. The comparable by-election at the same stage of the last parliament (Southend, East) showed a bigger drop in the Conservative share of the poll and a similar surge to the Liberals. Labour has the comfort of having done rather well in part of its heartland, and it has not been able to be sure of doing even that for the past few years. The Alliance has proved once more that it runs very well in second place. But the by-election is still its natural habitat, and second still seems to be its allotted place. It is a position well adapted to the cultivation of hope.

The Conservative performance seems slightly worse than it actually was by past standards because its prospects just before the polling looked slightly better. Assisted perhaps by the miners' strike, the Government was running comfortably ahead of Labour in the opinion polls with the Alliance way down. What is more the upturn in the economy, the reward for so much rigour, is

at last upon us; and anybody not a million miles from the stock exchange, like south west Surrey, has something to glow about. To no avail. Though Mrs Thatcher's supporters in Surrey stood their ground better than those in the Welsh valleys, ten thousand turned tail or stayed at home.

The party managers, who have to explain these things as well as note them, may be looking for the second time at the Harris poll in last Sunday's *Observer*, which recorded that while four fifths of its sample thought Mrs Thatcher the toughest prime minister since Churchill — a compliment — well over half agreed with the proposition that she acts too much like a dictator, and disagreed that she really cares about the interests of ordinary people. Among those of that opinion were between a third and a fifth of Conservative supporters. In some of its moods the electorate might be influenced by such perceptions.

The local election results were a little more ominous for the Government. Not because they showed a larger adverse swing — they did not; but because they relate to an area where the Government is wading into a bog in the full conviction that it knows the way. The district elections cannot be regarded as a referendum on rate capping or the abolition of metropolitan councils. They were not a rehearsal for the GLC and metropolitan elections of 1985 which the Government is in the process of expunging by special legislation. But these issues were relevant to the elections, and the results may be read as in some degree endorsing the opponents of the Government's measures. Mr Jenkin was yesterday

reduced to explaining away a swing against the Government since the general election in the metropolitan districts of Yorkshire by reference to the "hundreds and hundreds of thousands of pounds of rate-payers' money that the threatened authorities had spent on the materials of propaganda; and of course the Conservatives have a just appreciation of the value of political advertising. As for rate capping, the proposals did not come from Conservative councillors no good either in Birmingham, the least capable of places and a model of Tory municipalism, or at Basildon the most capable of places in Mr Jenkin's eyes.

The reasons which draw the Government farther and farther down the road of detailed financial control of local authorities have been fully explained and are certainly not light. But they implicate the Government in a programme of bureaucratic centralization and interference in quasi-autonomous corporations which sits ill with standard Tory precepts.

In Liverpool the thrust of those policies is leading to what Mr Jenkin described yesterday as uncharted territory. The determined irresponsibility of Labour militants in control of the council, the possible bankruptcy of the city and temporary collapse of its services, the likely intervention of the courts, the reserve power in Whitehall of executive override, invocation of an electoral mandate, and the possibility of public disorder, make a brew that Thursday's election there has warmed up. Controlling the situation and controlling the political currents that flow from it will be a stiff examination in the art of government.

WEALTH AND THE WATER-CANNON

This week's pro-Solidarity demonstrations in Poland have provided a dramatic background to General Jaruzelski's discussions in Moscow. The main item on the agenda, however, will not be the suppression of dissent. General Jaruzelski has survived more widespread disruption in recent years and is now very efficient in the techniques of crowd control. But he is less capable of organizing economic recovery, and shares the general concern of all communist governments that failure to provide the work force with adequate incentives will exacerbate the present slow-down in industrial growth which makes their plans eventually to surpass capitalist countries completely unrealistic.

Of course, as they reviewed their May Day parades, the communist leaders were not short of ammunition with which to attack the capitalist countries, pointing to unemployment and strikes as evidence of their inevitable doom. In Warsaw General Jaruzelski condemned the "merciless exploitation perpetrated by multinational super-capitalist monopolies" and claimed that the future belonged to socialism. Yet in the streets of Polish cities riot police used truncheons, tear gas and water-cannon to disperse thousands of Poles demonstrating in support of their outlawed trade union movement.

In Moscow the Party Programme is undergoing extensive

revision. The first of these blueprints laying down the road to world communism was fulfilled with the Bolshevik seizure of power in 1917. The second, introduced by Lenin in 1919, planned the building of a socialist state in Russia. With the loss of millions of lives Stalin carried out this task to his own satisfaction and went on to spread his socialism to the neighbouring states of Eastern Europe.

The third programme launched by Khrushchev in 1961, promised that by 1980 the USSR would have overtaken the United States in economic output per capita and have laid the foundations for a fully communist society with material abundance for all. However, by 1970 the process of catching up with the USA had faltered and Soviet GNP remains only two-thirds that of its main rival. The microchip revolution is now widening the gap between the two social systems even more than the gulf caused by the Bolshevik revolution.

Water-cannon and censorship cannot be used to promote industrial growth. Immediately before the May Day demonstrations that an illegal printing press had been closed down. In Leningrad a senior engineer working in the automation department of the Academy of Sciences Library was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for illegal use of duplicating equip-

ment. With such restrictions on the circulation of information it is not surprising that communist countries are failing to match technological developments elsewhere.

Earlier economic growth was largely based on the rich natural resources of the USSR, which has surpassed the United States in the production of crude oil, for example. However, statistics for the first quarter of 1984 show a drop in oil output compared with the same period of 1983. East European economies depend heavily on Soviet oil, and the USSR itself relies on oil exports to the West to pay for vital supplies of advanced technology. Coal output is down also, and the more successful gas industry cannot be expected both to earn sufficient hard currency and provide the energy base for East European industry.

The Soviet Party Programme promises the "triumph of communism on a world-wide scale". In discussing its revision, President Chernenko stressed that he still considered capitalism to be doomed, but acknowledged that its resources were far from exhausted. It is one thing to suppress political freedoms at home and expand communist rule abroad when the Soviet economy is growing and living standards are improving, but with severe economic difficulties looming ahead, the bright peaks of communism are now farther away than ever. General Jaruzelski's dependence on water-cannon seems likely to spread.

ABUSING THE STATUTE BOOK

Legislation thrust on a Government by the British public in one of its periodic fits of morality is apt all too often to prove irrelevant or actually harmful when it comes to be applied in the courts. The Home Secretary has done well to resist being bounced into hasty legislation by the wave of anxiety, real and justified as it is, over the problem of glue-sniffing.

Mr Brittan was pressed towards action by a heroic piece of creative law-making by the Scottish judiciary last year. Faced with a case where two Glasgow shopkeepers had cynically endangered children in their neighbourhood by selling them so-called "glue-sniffing kits" on a large scale (four gallons of glue were found in their shop), the judges decided that such an abuse of young people fell within the ambit of a concept in Scottish common law of "culpable and reckless conduct" causing real injury to others. This was a great surprise not only to the two shopkeepers, who were sentenced to three years in jail, but also to the police and many legal observers.

The resources of English common law, or at least of the English judiciary, are understood to offer no corresponding recourse. If there are any newsagents or ironmongers in England as vicious as the two in Glasgow there is no evident means in law of preventing them from corrupting local children.

No doubt it would be better if there were, but it would be quite wrong to imagine that creating one would be of much general help in the fight against solvent abuse. In the same way, the penal sanctions often proposed against those found sniffing solvents (in addition to the powers the police already possess to take them to a "place of safety") risk drawing young people into the ambit of criminal associations and alienation over foolish behaviour which in the majority of cases appears to be grown out of quickly. They might also risk creating disincentive to parents to seek help when it is needed.

Mr Brittan in effect rejected pressure to legislate, but said that the Government would be ready to look favourably on a private member's Bill, and by implication would give assistance in its preparation, as occurred with the Bill to control "video nasties" — another Bill conceived hastily in a moral fit. But he said that it would be better for a Bill to cover not only "kits" but also sales where the shopkeeper has reasonable grounds for believing that the young buyers mean to go off and get themselves intoxicated. He added in reservation that he would wish to consult the police and representatives of manufacturers and retailers. The Government's soundings among interested groups have up to now found no widespread enthusiasm for legislation which would

put the onus of prevention on shopkeepers.

The difficulty is that children sniff a wide range of substances, and are always experimenting with new ones. Many of the items involved are not expensive or obvious, as alcohol and tobacco are, but everyday things which young people often buy for quite proper purposes. This makes it almost impracticable to draw up a list of dangerous items for special control (and probably to require the addition of distasteful substances to them, as Mr Harry Greenway proposed this week in a ten-minute rule Bill).

The Government's preferred course has been to circulate a voluntary code of conduct designed to help retailers use their own judgment in preventing glue-sniffers from getting at their addiction. This approach cannot eliminate mistakes nor carelessness, but it will probably do more good all round than any law applicable only to cases of carelessness blatant enough to be proved in court. Sanctions imposed on retailers may have a subsidiary role in the control of sniffing, but enlisting their informed co-operation is more important. The most important responsibility of all is that of parents, to ensure that their children understand the dangers, and to seek help (which should be readily available) at the first sign that their children are becoming victims of addiction.

Setting the standards in schools

From the Headmaster of Monkton Combe School

Sir, Dr Rae (feature, April 30) rightly pleads for independent schools to be open about their examination results yet he must know that such statistics are not a sound basis for judging a school. Even to make a fair assessment of effective teaching would require also publication of pupils' IQs and their standard of each subject at entry.

More serious is that undue emphasis on examination results may encourage schools to limit the number of subjects pupils study in the two years before O level in order that they shall achieve high grades rather than have the broad education which is so essential in our complex world.

The present demand for high grades at A level has already curtailed non-examined general studies courses to the detriment of the total development of many sixth formers.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MEREDITH,
Headmaster,
Monkton Combe School,
Bath, Avon,
April 30.

From Mrs W. D. J. Cargill Thompson

Sir, Parents contemplating sending their children to independent schools will endorse John Rae's view (feature, April 30) that the public examination results of those schools should be published. This would not necessarily be to the detriment of those schools not at the top of the results league, nor to the advantage of those that are.

Of course the importance of good O and A-level results is not underrated, but parental wisdom often will, and certainly should, decide against a school which concentrates largely on academic results in favour of one which will take a wider and more responsible view of the child's development.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER CARGILL
THOMPSON,
49 Burghley Road, NW5,
May 1.

'The Other Britain'

From Mr Gilbert Walton

Sir, Your leader on the Dimbleby lecture (April 21) and the subsequent correspondence fail to appreciate what appears to me the most important of Bishop Sheppard's contentions.

This is that when those who are most able to create and maintain employment in a community move away they necessarily leave behind "The Other Britain", which is less able to create employment for itself, and tends to live in poverty and at a disadvantage.

The bishop cited himself as someone who had moved away from Peckham and I myself, Sir, have moved away from Lewisham.

Why have we moved away? Speaking for myself it is because the suburban areas of cities have in many cases become too ugly to live

in, and the churches where we worshipped have become in many cases nearly derelict.

The bishop is surely right to suggest that an essential prerequisite for full employment is that "The Other Britain" and "The Comfortable Britain" should come together again.

The restoration of open spaces, rivers and fine buildings, with railways, roads and airports made beautiful, and the restoration of churches that interest all the community, both "catholic" and "non-conformist", are the sort of processes that are likely, automatically, to remove unemployment and depression.

Yours faithfully,
GILBERT WALTON,
Maidenhead,
Surrey,
Burford, Oxfordshire,
April 28.

From the Headmistress of South Hampstead High School

Sir, It would have been better if the Headmaster of Westminster School had done a little research before committing himself to indignant and misleading generalisations on how independent schools deny parents accurate information on examination results.

For several years in this school have not only made available, but positively forced upon parents exactly those tables of all O and A-level candidates, by subject and grade, which he advocates. It would be astonishing if we were unique in this.

Yours faithfully,
AVERIL BURGESS, Headmistress,
South Hampstead High School,
3 Maresfield Gardens, NW3,
May 1.

From the Headmistress of St Mary's Hall, Brighton

Sir, In his article (April 30), Dr Rae asks that independent school heads should be more open about their examination results.

May I suggest that parents considering sending their daughters to the sixth forms of boys' schools are most interested in the results obtained by the girls in those schools. In *The Times Educational Supplement* this week a list of the schools gaining awards at Oxford and Cambridge this year was published, together with the numbers in their sixth forms.

From these results, it would appear that 3 per cent of the girls in the sixth forms of single-sex schools obtained awards, whilst only 1.2 per cent of the girls in the sixth forms of co-educational and boys' schools, obtained awards.

It would be interesting to know if an analysis of A-level results would produce similar relative percentages, especially of A and B grades.

Yours sincerely,
M. F. C. HARVEY, Headmistress,
St Mary's Hall,
Brighton,
Sussex,
April 30.

Leg-irons for export

From Colonel Patrick Montgomery

Sir, Mrs M. J. Johnson (April 25) warns that "any country that manufactures equipment to abuse human rights may one day find such equipment in use on its own streets".

An Englishman recently visited an English prison in a Bangkok jail. He noticed that Thai prisoners wore leg-irons and asked what offence required their use. He was told that all Thai prisoners in Thai prisons bear them.

On November 25, 1983, the *Daily Mirror* reported that a (named) Birmingham firm had just exported 8,000 leg-irons and other instruments of restraint. Its customers were African, Middle Eastern and Latin American governments. A representative of the firm was reported as adding that whether exports were banned or not they would continue to export their products.

Leg-irons facilitate torture. Tor-

ture is used in many countries as a weapon of government policy.

Replying on March 23 to a parliamentary question, Mr Norman Tebbit said that licences would not be issued for the export of iron for the restraint of prisoners. Applications for export licences for other purposes such as theatrical performances or museum display would be considered on their merits.

The Government need not disclose information on this subject.

The use of chains or irons either for restraint or as punishment is expressly forbidden under any circumstances by Article 33 of the United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners.

There can be no justification for permitting in the United Kingdom the manufacture, let alone the export, of such irons on whatever pretext.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MONTGOMERY,
The Oast House,
Buxted, Sussex,
April 26.

Above-average turnout

From Mr Michael Wheeler

Sir, I shall be grateful if I may be permitted to correct an error in the otherwise excellent leader on April 30, entitled "Local votes matter".

You are not alone in thinking that less than 40 per cent voted in the 1981 GLC elections. During the past few months I have had to correct a number of my parliamentary Conservative colleagues who have wrongly referred to the low turnout in GLC elections.

The fact is that the turnout at GLC elections is well above average for local government elections and

in 1981 was just under 45 per cent. In the six GLC elections since 1964 the turnout has only twice fallen below 40 per cent and has been consistently higher than the turnout for the London borough council elections.

Perhaps therefore there is a stronger argument for the Government to look at the future of the borough councils than there is for the GLC.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WHEELER,
Greater London Council,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
May 2.

Points reversed

From Major Jeremy Monson

Sir, Philip Howard (April 18) is quite correct. The term "Brownie points" has totally reversed its meaning during passage across the Atlantic.

However he is not entirely right about the source of the expression. It originated in America about the turn of the century. A superintendent of the Pullman Car Company called Brown instituted a system of demerit points which employees could be awarded for bad conduct or poor performance. Three such points cost a day's pay, five meant a week's suspension and ten brought the sack.

Hardly the interpretation that trendy users of the phrase in this country have so blandly assumed.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY MONSON,
Keepers Cottage,
Scarlets Wood,
Hare Hatch,
Nr Reading,
Berkshire,
April 19.

Writer's retreat

From Miss S. B. S. Pigrome

Sir, I fear your Property Correspondent has been inadequately briefed when he tells us (April 25) that Dr Johnson's summerhouse is included in the grounds of the house Ashgrove, which is to be sold at Knockholt.

This summerhouse was formerly in the grounds of Streatham Park and used by Johnson as a quiet place where he could "plan a life of greater diligence". It was removed to Ashgrove by Susanah Thrale in 1826 and was bought in 1963 in a tumbledown condition by Mr W. H. Wells, who presented it to the then ICC.

After restoration it was re-erected at Kenwood in 1968, where it has been on view to the public ever since.

Yours faithfully,
STELLA PIGROME,
Honorary Secretary,
The Johnson Society of London,
Round Chimney,
Playden,
Rye, Sussex,
April 26.

Changing the face of the City

From Mr J. W. Skillington

Sir, One must admire Mr Palumbo's strength of purpose and loyalty to his ideals (feature, April 30). But to erect the Mies van der Rohe building on the proposed historic site — no! The new tower and the traditional buildings will kill each other. Moreover, one must remember the blighting effect of a tall building on its immediate surroundings.

The site should be in one of the empty areas nearer the river and the tower could be set among smaller buildings of the same architectural idiom.

This could then form an arresting group, which might indeed fit in with the planer rectangular architecture of dockland.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. SKILLINGTON,
20 Morley Street,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire,
May 1.

From Mr Martin Pawley

Sir, The destruction attributed to modern architecture by Mr Scruton was in fact the result of the damage and neglect of two world wars. Between 1914 and 1950 Britain was at war for the equivalent of one day out of every three and a half. Modern architecture played an important part in 30 years of post-war recovery and no other creative ideology could remotely have come to terms with the task. To call this progress and destruction is to conflate cause and effect.

As to Mr Palumbo's Mansion House Square proposal, it is a simple case of architectural patronage pursued with remarkable determination. It is and always has been possible to praise Belcher — why should it not be possible to praise Mies van der Rohe as well?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PAWLEY,
21 Bramham Gardens, SW5,
May 2.

From Mr T. P. Hudson

Sir, There may be arguments in favour of building Mies van der

Rohe's elderly skyscraper in Mansion House Square ("Architecture at the barricades", April 30), but the opening up of a view of Lutyens' Midland Bank building in Poultry surely isn't one of them. Very much the reverse, in fact, for it is clear that Lutyens' building was not designed to be seen frontally, but to take its effect from the raking view necessitated by its position in a relatively narrow street.

Too many buildings in the City and elsewhere have already been diminished by the mania of architects and town planners for creating such inappropriate vistas — a mania which many of us hoped had subsided.

Yours faithfully,
T. P. HUDSON,
23 Glenwood Avenue,
Bognor, West Sussex,
April 30.

From the President of The Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, Roger Scruton's remarks (May 1) about the attitudes of post-war architects and planners cannot remain unchallenged. He implies that as long as there is money to go to Bermuda anything is permitted. On the contrary, one of the hallmarks of British planning is the integrity of both professional staff and elected members. This corporate working in general reflects current ideals and this is why today, a design which first appeared in 1968 has been rejected by the local planning authority.

It is wrong to build dead architecture if we are to turn the City of London into a folk museum should we also have another Lutyens bank tailored to fit one of Piranesi's unused town plans?

Planning ought to be alive and reflect today's opinions, which are in favour of the retention of the historic street patterns and building mass with which generations of Londoners have been familiar.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN S. ANDERSON, President,
The Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
May 1.

Austrian Army order

From Mr T. D. Bridge

Sir, I met General Heinz Scharff, Chief of General Staff, Austrian Army, last Thursday. He talked to me about the order which his Army has placed for the British Centurion tanks surplus to Netherlands Army requirements.

Your Correspondent in Vienna, Mr Richard Bassett, refers in his article (April 25) to the "plans to purchase 300 20-year-old Centurion tanks from Holland despite the existence of the modern manufactured Austrian Kurassier tank".

The Austrians are buying 120 Centurion tanks at about £3,800 each. These cannot be compared with the "modern manufactured Austrian Kurassier tank" because the tanks have been bought by the Austrians, only for their 105mm guns and turrets.

When the 120 arrive in Austria guns and turrets will be placed in the fortifications which are so important to Austrian defence strategy. General Scharff told me that the Army may purchase another 180 Centurions for the same purpose — that is, for the use of guns and turrets only — but no decision has been made on this possible second order.

I write as one who admires Mr Bassett's writing about Austrian affairs. We thought that your readers would wish to know how the Austrians plan to give the British-made Centurion guns a new role in the defence of their country.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. BRIDGE,
Army Quarterly and Defence Journal,
1 West Street,
Tavistock, Devon,
April 26.

Words and worship

From the Reverend Howard Giddings

Sir, May I please add to the Rev John Kirby's useful letter (April 17). It is important to balance Roger Scruton's strong claims for the Book of Common Prayer (feature, April 10) with some attention to the facts of history.

In 1562 the Church of England sank into its worst period of decline. The content of the Book and its imposition by Parliament were rejected by large numbers of Christians in England. The result was the necessary rise of Methodism and the appearance of a rash of other independent chapels as people sought spiritual solace and a lively faith. The contempt of the Roman Church was inevitable and by the end of the nineteenth century Rome had dismissed the Church of England completely, as a true Church.

The twentieth century has seen the country almost totally secularized. For most people the Book of Common Prayer has failed to provide a spirituality good enough to survive the great wars and the economic and political disappointments of our time.

I well remember my early days as an assistant curate and how people complained about the dull and old-fashioned services of the Church. We longed for a new prayer book in modern English, expressing today's thoughts about God and his world.

Now we have one and our hope is that the Alternative Service Book, with its use of agreed texts, will help us all to reunite the English Church and make it a true servant of our country. It is an excellent book for liturgical and private use. May it soon be given a more positive and worthy name — the Book of Common Prayer 1980, perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD GIDDINGS,
The Rectory,
Bitch,
Colchester, Essex.

Dignity in the pits

From Mr Kenneth Adams

Sir, Coming from Rotherham, in the heart of the South Yorkshire coalfield, the letter from the Reverend R. H. Marshall (April 21) is very important and revealing.

In that letter he says: "The mining industry, and indeed any industry, is not only about economics, it is primarily about the human beings who make that industry work." I believe that to be a very mistaken view of the primary purpose of industry.

Industry is primarily about producing the goods and services which we all require. By performing that basic social service it does indeed provide work for those who engage in it, but just as importantly, it provides the wealth to pay for those who work in many other key areas, such as education, medicine, and the arts.

Mr Marshall's mistaken view of the primary purpose of industry lies behind our failure to recognize the true social role of industry as the provider of the goods and services on which we all depend.

His view focuses our attention in the first place on those who work in industry instead of on those whom industry serves — customers and the wider community. His views of primary purpose would mean, for example, that hospitals are primarily about making that industry work, and not about healing the sick.

Industry does not primarily exist to serve those who work in it but to serve those who need its products. Yours faithfully,
KENNETH ADAMS, Chairman,
Industrial Christian Fellowship,
St Katharine Cree Church,
Leadenhall Street, EC3,
April 26.

Queue for service

From Mrs Julie-Anne Hills

Sir, Perhaps David Harrington (May 2) would like to consider the staff on the other side of the fence or glass who have to master and deal with the vast variety and number of transactions the Post Office offers; the long queues of impatient customers (caused by lack of staffing), the persistent customers who come in at 29 minutes past 5 with the most time-consuming of transactions... believe me, I could go on.

It is not their fault that there are long queues, that visitors' passports cannot be obtained on Saturdays, that you have to have all the necessary documents in order to get a car tax disc, that the combination of notes paid over to a customer is not always convenient.

The Post Office not only handles more services and transactions than any other public-service business but also has to contend with a fast-growing bank (Giro) and its customers.

Yours faithfully,
J.A. HILLS,
37 Cranfield Road East,
Carshalton, Surrey,
May 2.

Flower power

From Mr H. C. Seigal

Sir, Mr T. Larsson, (May 1), whose daffodils straggled themselves trying to follow the sun round in the Arctic Circle, should not have attempted to fly in the face of nature. He would have done better to stick to the local flora. The flowers of *Dryas octopetala*, for example, are designed to follow the sun indefinitely as it circles the horizon.

Yours faithfully,
H. C. SEIGAL,
72 New Cavendish Street, W1,
May 1.

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and The Week Ahead

Pound for pounds

There is one infallible prescription for cutting the cost of living. It is to drink in Italy, send postcards from Greece, hire a car in Portugal but fill it up in the United States. And if such a crazy journey leaves you feeling a bit peckish, tiddle across to Spain for the cheapest ice cream and cheese rolls.

If, on the other hand, you should wish to watch the pounds slip through your fingers with all possible speed just drink the

wines of Switzerland, hire a car in Greece, and top up its tank in Italy.

The Times correspondents in the 10 countries most visited by British holidaymakers report on best buys (they provided the figures for the chart so it is right up to date).

And commercial editor Derek Harris assesses the significance of inflation and the exchange rates in the destinations spotlighted here.

FRANCE

Paris is bathed in sun, the inflation rate is falling (from 9.3 per cent in 1983 to a current 6.5 per cent) and prices are not much higher than last year. Paris still offers a tremendous choice of hotels, restaurants and cafes. Two people can eat well for £15. The crowded terraces remain the centres of Parisian life and you cannot beat the old favourites: Fouquet's on the Champs Elysees, Le Flore and Les Deux Magots at St-Germain-des-Près, and the Select at Montparnasse. For around £1.50 you can sit for hours with a double cafe crème.

The city's prize features include the world's finest and cheapest underground, the Luxembourg Gardens, a haven on the Left Bank; the fashion shops in the Rue de Grenelle area. The most romantic restaurant remains the Closier des Lilas, in Montparnasse where Ernest Hemingway wrote. The coolest place in the bustling Opera district is the Hotel Scribe (£1.60 lunch). And 50,000 Frenchmen cannot be wrong: that is the number which visits the remarkable Beaubourg museum each day.

But there are bad points too. A wave of pick-pocketing in the Métro; notably at the Gare du

Nord and above ground in the Odéon and St-Germain-des-Près districts: beware of gypsy children in gangs. Avoid Pigalle which has sunk to new depths of vulgarity. The duty-free shops at Charles de Gaulle airport offer no bargains except on alcohol and cigarettes. Buy in the city and claim your tax rebate of up to 34 per cent upon leaving the country. It will be sent on to you.

Down south on the Côte d'Azur prices, as the locals say, are as salty as the sea, which means noticeably higher than in Paris. But in many of the most beautiful tourist spots inland from the Mediterranean beaches, and in places such as southern Brittany, costs drop by as much as 30 per cent.

SPAIN

Eat, drink and be mobile in Spain - for all three pleasures come exceedingly cheap. Meals are the best bargain remaining in the country since the rapid increase in the cost of leather goods, the stalwarts of earlier holidays. And in Madrid you can have a pint of Guinness at an outdoor bar and then take the Metro right across town to the famous Retiro Park - and still have change left from £1.

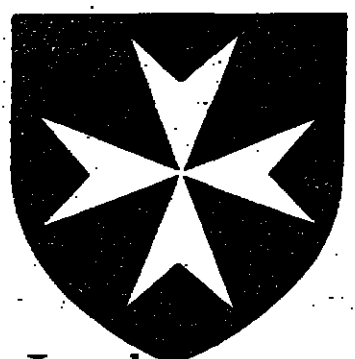
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1/2 litre of beer, local if available	81p	41p	40p	85p	£1.10	69p	70p	37p	£1.75
A cup of coffee	22p	21p	20p	42p	40p	48p	35p	21p	57p
A fizzy soft drink	94p	30p	38p	34p	40p	41p	45p	25p	70p
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A decent cheese roll or sandwich	56p	37p	38p	£1.04	£2	89p	50p	65p	£1
An ice cream - street or beach price	34p	14p	40p	25p	60p	30p	25p	15p	32p
Current inflation rate	6.5%	12%	12.5%	20%+	3.8%	3%	3.5%	30%	2.5%
Current exchange rate	11.60 FRANKS	213 PESETAS	2,305 LIRE	147.48 DRACHMAS	1.41 DOLLARS	3.90 MARKS	4.40 GUILDERS	181 ESCUDOS	3.12 SW. FRANKS
Rate of exchange five years ago	9	142	1,776	79	2.12	3.88	5	103	3.45

You can go anywhere for 15p on Madrid's quaint old underground - a few of the coaches still running date (with refurbishments) from 1919. The more modern buses are equally cheap.

Fish is the food to go for: Spaniards (and Danes) rank second only to the Japanese in the world's fish-eating league, which means you can often enjoy good quality fresh fish in popularly priced restaurants. You can, for instance, eat hake for £4.25 or savour grilled sole or half a dozen oysters for only £3.50. But Spaniards are so fond of fish they tend to take it "neat" or with only a tiny potato or two or a few peas, so that vegetables or a salad have to be ordered as extras.

Window shopping reveals an amazing variety of prices, an indication of Spaniards' individualism or anarchism and of insufficient endorsement by the public authorities of (theoretical) price controls. Sometimes the bargains can be most surprising. Although records of classical music are generally more expensive than in Britain you can find shops selling EMI pressings for less than in that much-touted emporium in Oxford Street.

Breakfasts in Spanish hotels continue to be the national short-changing act. It brings you a good deal closer to ordinary Spaniards' lives to plate into a nearby bar for coffee and croissants at as little as a third of the price the hotels demand.

ITALY

Italy has a fine choice of buys. There is marvellous value to be had from a Maserati Biturbo. And an ice-cream on the top terrace of Taormina can be pretty good too, especially between about sunset and midnight. The underground railway in Rome is largely new, clean and remarkably cheap. But don't think you will enjoy yourself by sitting in a cafe on Via Veneto because you won't any more if you are honest with yourself and the drinks will be shockingly expensive.

Enjoy pedestrian islands but be wary: a country which has lived lovingly cheek by jowl with motorcars for years is still at a loss to know what to do with quiet and space. The only natives with any clear ideas are the sort who are always ready to move into any vacuum - drug-pushers, down-and-outs, and the occasional inspired foe of silence and restriction who will risk trying a quick dash across the island in his Fiat 500 just for the hell of it.

Be careful about using a bar-telephone which is constantly available because it usually means that you are in the middle of the expensive hours for making even local calls: so study the chart of high and low charges - the difference is substantial.

Be clear about what you want to eat and, especially, what you don't want to eat. Standards in the very best restaurants are high, as are the prices, though not unreasonably so, and it is not only in Milan and Turin, Bologna and Rome that one

eats well. The provinces also have some excellent restaurants. But in or outside the cities it is worth looking for small establishments run by families. To save, eat pizzas, especially from Rome southward.

Shop where the artisan tradition is still strong: Florence is the recognized capital for leather goods, jewelry, accessories, but efforts to see that style is combined with quality have increased over the last few years in much of the country.

The classification of wines has improved as well: try the wines in their regional habitat with the dishes designed over the centuries to go with them, but don't despise the bottle of mineral water.

Now that the "Mediterranean diet" is so fashionable, you can cease worrying about the effects of eating pasta. Olive oil is greatly in favour among dietitians: find a private supplier and bring back some bottles as gifts.

GREECE

With a cost-of-living index that has risen by 143 per cent in the past five years, Greece is no longer quite as attractive for British holidaymakers as it used to be. What is more, the quality of its services leaves so much to be desired that the tourist authorities are getting really worried.

But a holiday in Greece is still a bargain as well as an incomparable experience that combines sun-drenched fun on some undiscovered island with the thrill of exploring the blurred confines between history and legend. To that you can add a spirit of hospitality that in most parts of Greece is a way of life rather than an imposed courtesy.

Athens is one of the places where hospitality is rare. This is a city that coops up one-third of the country's population of 10 million, choking in a congestion

of unruly traffic and a cloud of pollution and rapidly deteriorating human relations.

The tourist is likely to feel this the moment he lands at Athens airport. All the minor irritants are there lurking for him, in the form of the luggage cart that has to be fetched from outside the terminal building (there are no porters) or the taxi-driver who, after taking you on, will not set out until he has secured another one or two passengers to double or treble his earnings for the 10-mile ride to Athens - a trip which costs barely £2. Taxis are so cheap, in fact, that they are difficult to come by, especially when you need them. The alternative is to hire a self-drive car.

Food in Greece can be exciting and interesting, especially in the more unassuming tavernas. But often it is served so cold and so ungraciously that you are made to feel you are not getting your money's worth. A decent lunch for two with wine at one of the more attractive restaurants in Athens costs between £14 and £28. Fish is far too costly in a country that boasts more than 9,000 miles of coastline.

USA

Seventeen million tourists came to nibble at the Big Apple last year. No doubt they thought it worth the money. New York is a mass of amazing and intriguing sights and pleasures but do not imagine you can do it cheaply. It is expensive, partly because almost everything you buy, including restaurant meals, cigarettes, petrol, tickets and clothes, carries an 8 1/2 per cent tax.

A modest meal for two in a pleasant restaurant costs between £25 and £40 but there are bargain meals to be had in some steak houses and coffee shops. And do not forget the great American hamburger. It may be all you can afford after

Measuring ratable value

● The biggest improvement in exchange rates benefiting Britons converting holiday pounds has been in Greece. They get nearly 87 per cent more drachmas than five years ago. And with package-holiday tour operators also able to buy hotel accommodation more cheaply, Greece has been able to appeal even more to British holiday-makers. But Greece also has the highest inflation rate (20 per cent) of the holiday destinations surveyed. That could gradually erode the benefits of the exchange-rate improvement if there is no further marked devaluation of the drachma.

● Next best improvement in exchange rates has been in Spain, the most popular package-holiday destination. Britons get 50 per cent more pesetas for sterling than five years ago. Spain's inflation rate is also more moderate at 12 per cent, about the same

rise in cost of living as in Italy.

● Italy is third in the exchange-rate improvement league, with almost 30 per cent more lire to be had for sterling compared with five years ago.

● France is not far behind, with a 28.8 per cent improvement. Inflation is also almost half that of Italy and Spain.

● Although the inflation rate in the United States is, at 3.8 per cent, one of the most stable, the exchange rate has gone badly for the British traveller. Sterling buys a third fewer dollars than five years ago. Among all the destinations surveyed this is the biggest turn for the worse.

● In the Netherlands sterling buys 12 per cent fewer guilders and there is a similar deterioration in Austria. There are 9.6 per cent fewer Swiss francs to be had for sterling.

Derek Harris

you have paid £30 a head for theatre tickets. The cinema is more affordable at £3.50.

Do not dream of renting a car in New York. It can be almost twice as expensive as in other parts of the country. You can rent one for a week in California and Florida for as little as £50.

Washington is good for sightseeing and has marvellous free museums. The Air and Space museum, for example, must be one of the world's great shows.

Back in New York, a sightseeing bargain is the Staten Island ferry. From its deck you get a great view of Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty for less than 20p.

W. GERMANY

West Germany is cheaper than many British tourists think, mainly because the inflation rate has remained so low over the past five years while other countries, despite devaluation, have pushed up their prices.

It is still by no means a cheap country, but you can eat well in restaurants and stay in pleasant family hotels without spending a fortune. Indeed, hotels, especially in the big cities, are often cheaper than in Britain and nearly all, of course, are spotlessly clean and well run.

German food is filling, rather heavy and out of fashion among gourmets. Instead they prefer to eat in the many Italian, Greek, Yugoslav and other foreign restaurants you can find in almost every city. Many are very good but lunches in country pubs and small inns are good value too.

Beer - especially in Bavaria - and wine are plentiful and a visit to a traditional beer garden is a must. Germany also has a lively pub tradition, especially in Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne and other big cities. White wine is usually too sweet for most English palates as the drier wines are generally exported. But take a trip down the Mosel, where wine-tasting is possible in all the villages, and you will find plenty of variety.

German public transport is efficient and no more expensive than in Britain, and the extensive rail network still serves small rural stations.

The main tourist areas in Germany are the south, especially in the Bavarian Alps (expensive in the skiing season) and the south-west with the incomparable Black Forest. A walking tour is the way to see the country at its best. In the north the North Sea coast and the island of Sylt are popular.

Things to avoid: clothes - good, chic but very expensive; watching television - very boring by British standards; crossing the road when the lights are red for pedestrians - serious risk of a fine and an accident; leaving the shopping to the weekends - shops are never open on Sundays and all are forced to close at the same time in the evenings and at 2 pm on Saturdays (except once a month when they stay open on Saturday afternoons).

Things to look for: museums - many of the best in Europe, with excellent variety in provincial cities (Kassel art museum,

for example, has 17 Rembrandts); bicycling - special paths in most cities; wild parties - plenty to see; concerts and musical events.

NETHERLANDS

Nearly four centuries of trading with the world has not only improved the Dutchman's English - a distinct advantage if your Dutch is rusty - but has also given him a nose for real bargains. In general, the holidaymaker will find he gets good value for money. Although the guilder is a strong currency - the current exchange rate is about 4.40 to the pound - inflation is among the lowest in Europe at about 3.5 per cent a year.

Dutch trading instincts have also earned the people the nickname of the Chinese of Europe. This does not explain the proliferation of Chinese restaurants in this country, which are, in any case, mainly

noted for the Indonesian fare they serve.

Although the more adventurous should try Dorniss, a Dutch specialities restaurant in Amsterdam, Holland's real national dish could be said to be the "risotto" (rice table). It can be eaten in almost any Chinese-Indonesian restaurant.

Good value can also be obtained from the set menus at about £3.50 promoted by the National Bureau of Tourism. The many sandwich shops offer a tremendous variety: sample them at lunchtime (there is no pub grub available) or follow the Dutchman's example and "eat out of the wall": automats with little windowed cubicles from which for a few coins you can extract strange looking but delicious snacks.

And if you want to know why the Dutch are so fierce as regards their fishing rights in the North Sea try a raw, salted herring with onions. Perhaps there is a Dutch national dish, after all.

PORTUGAL

Portugal is still a bargain for British tourists in spite of whopping price increases and 30 per cent inflation. The devaluation of the escudo from 103 to the pound five years ago to 191 today means the holidaymaker gets more for his money now. Bed and breakfast for two at a four-star hotel at the Algarve beach resorts, with golf, tennis, swimming pools and other amenities, will cost only £40 per day in the peak season. Three-star hotels cost as little as £25 for a double room with breakfast, and rates on a prepaid tour are even cheaper.

Algarve beach hotels are some distance from the main towns, and tourists may be surprised to find they will have the added expense of renting cars if they want to see anything outside the confines of the hotel. Few hotels run buses, and although taxis are cheap, the long distances between points of interest make fares expensive.

Hoteliers on the Algarve and elsewhere are concentrating on offering year-round sport, including golf and tennis, for tourists from the cold regions of northern Europe. There are several excellent 18-hole golf courses in the Algarve, with many more dotted around the country. Green fees are between £7.85 and £10.50 and hotel

continued on page 13

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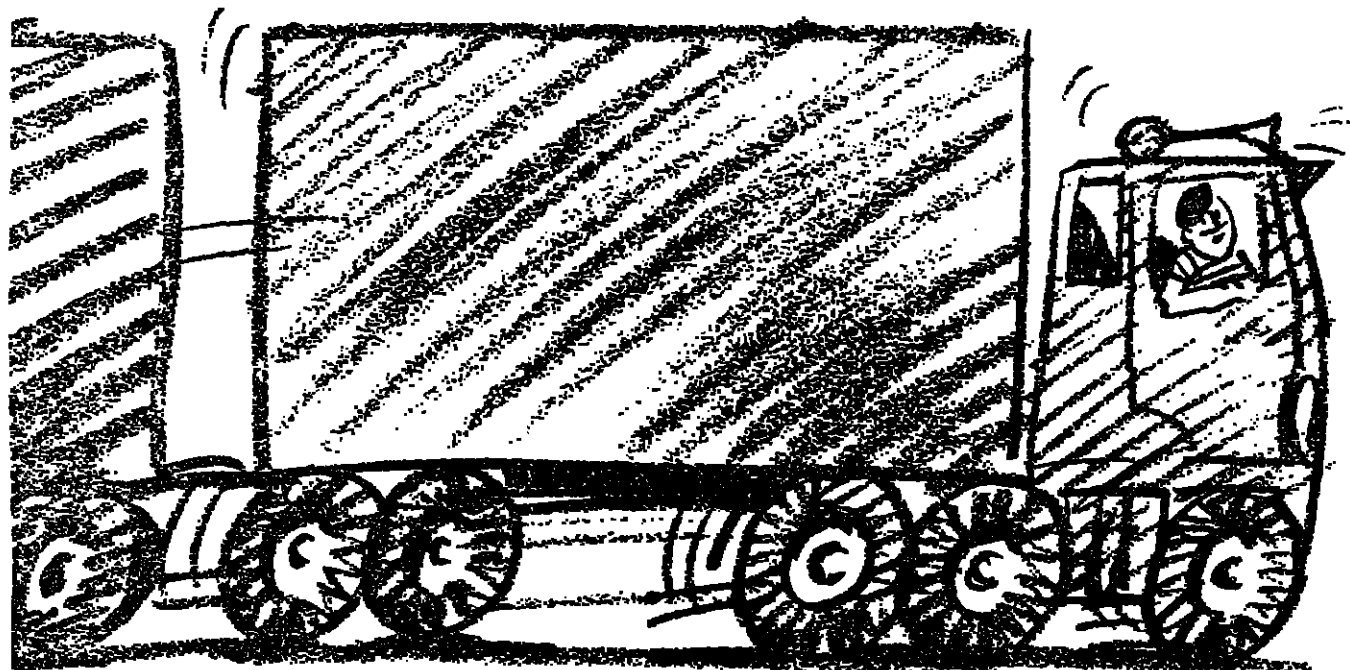
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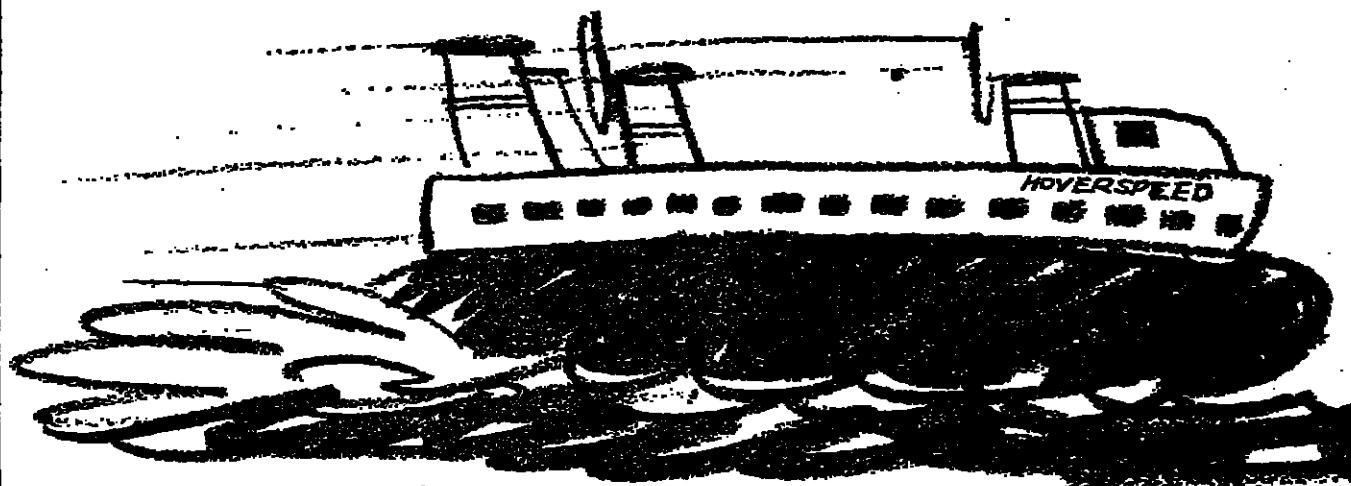
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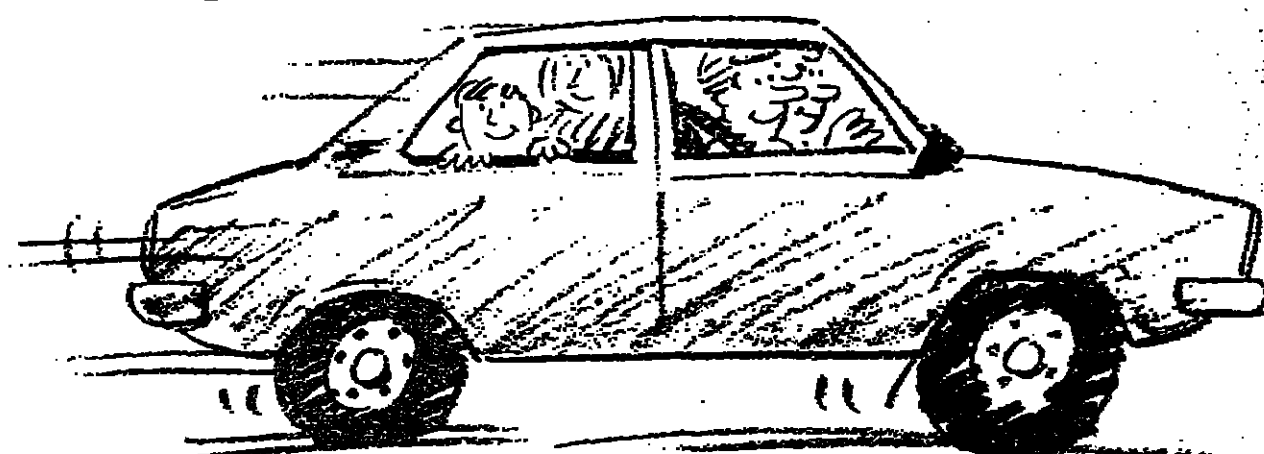
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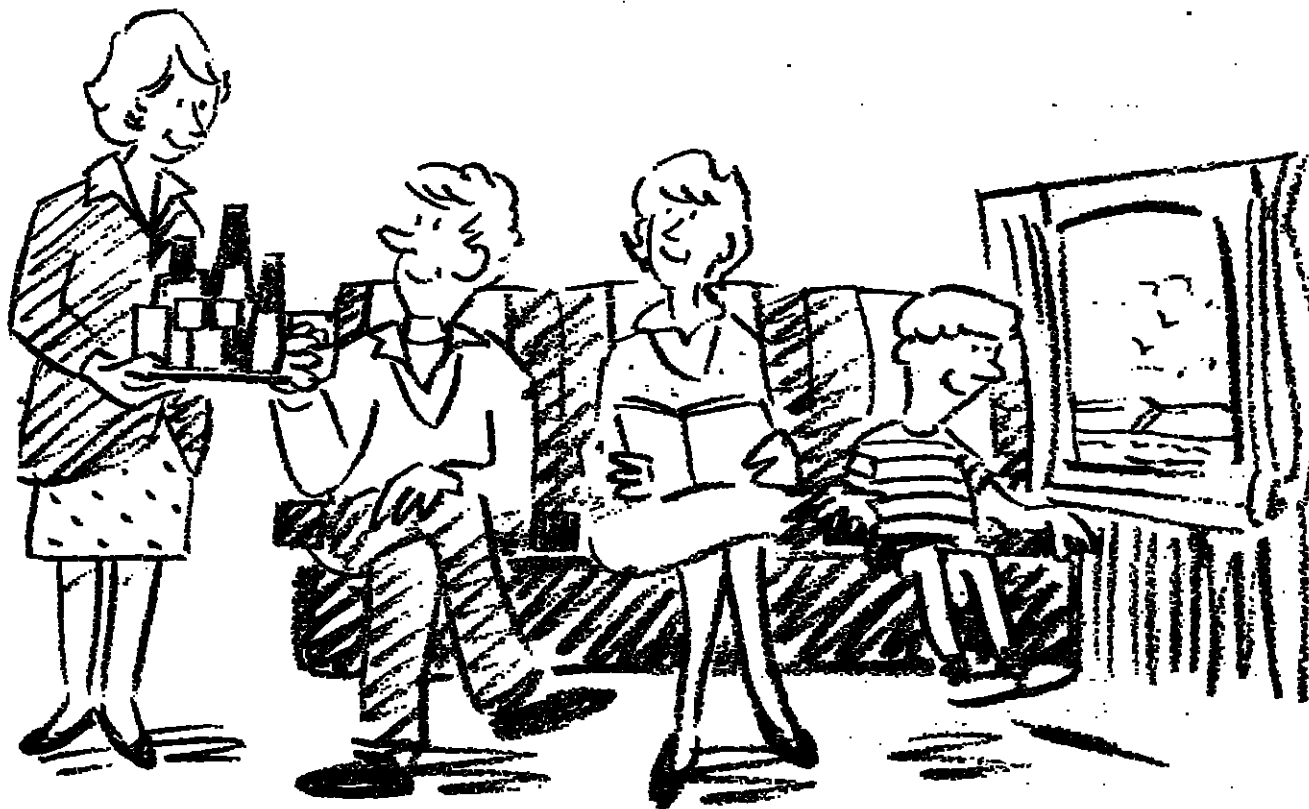
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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Learning the hard way on a coast-to-coast whistlestopper

This is the memoir of a trans-American whistlestopper, a lightning tour in which I visited 11 cities in 12 days. There were dawn flights and many a day ended long past my bedtime. It could have happened to anyone on a lecture/sales/publicity tour of the United States.

It was the Americans' revenge for all those jokes we have enjoyed about their whirligig European tours. No longer "it's Wednesday so it must be Belgium". For me it was Thursday so (presumably) Minneapolis.

On the road I learned a few tricks of the travelling trade.

Travel Lesson No. 1

You cannot rely on a hotel, however expensive. At the lavishly furnished New York Inter-Continental, "for our money there is no finer hotel in New York," says the *Gault-Millau Guide*, a package delivered on Sunday was not found until Tuesday, messages went astray twice and the telephoneist delivered another in hopelessly garbled form.

Travel Lesson No. 2

Double-lock your hotel door at all times. When we were finally called, the seat allocator almost succeeded in his attempt to give me an economy-class seat for a first-class ticket. The flight to Philadelphia was all of 22 minutes. It arrived almost two hours late. Everyone said I should have gone by train.

Travel Lesson No. 3

Despite the \$30m that the Inter-Continental has lavished on the old Barclay, I was not sorry to leave it for the scarcely less expensively restored St Regis Sheraton, where service kept better pace with the surroundings. Indeed, having been treated royally there, I felt that I rather disappointed the doorman by leaving in a shabby but economical limousine, hired from the Tel-Aviv Limo Corp, to ferry me, for only \$25 including toll and tip, to JFK Airport.

Travel Lesson No. 4

Check in early, and often. At JFK behind the Pan Am desk it said that passengers with hand baggage only could check in at the departure gate. So I hiked half a mile to the gate, to discover that the plane was delayed and the first-class lounge right back where I had come from. I perched on a broken seat in a crowded area

while the airline filled an hour's delay by announcing gate changes for almost every flight on the board. When we were finally called, the seat allocator almost succeeded in his attempt to give me an economy-class seat for a first-class ticket. The flight to Philadelphia was all of 22 minutes. It arrived almost two hours late. Everyone said I should have gone by train.

Travel Lesson No. 5

Flying is not the only way to travel. In Philadelphia there was fog. The airport, when I phoned ahead, said they were open but that some airlines were cancelling or delaying flights. The airline I was on insisted that flight 1914 to Baltimore would go on time. When I got to the airport the fog seemed thinner, but 1914, and every other flight, had been cancelled. By the time I got back to the railway station, I could have been in Baltimore by train.

An economy-class air ticket would have been \$150.93. The express rail fare was just \$20. To be sure of a seat I booked in the first class dining car of a Metroliner service at \$46 and still saved the equivalent of £76 on the trip.

Since deregulation, air fares in America make little sense. It can be cheaper to buy a return ticket, and leave half unused, than to purchase a single. With hand baggage only, it can sometimes be cheaper to buy a ticket to a town beyond your destination and get off when the aircraft touches down where you want to be. A computerized travel agency which specializes

in finding such unexpected economies is Travelpro in Irvine, California. Their phone is 714 851 8073 and the cost of your call is refunded if you buy your ticket from them.

Travel Lesson No. 6

Your hotel may not be what it seems. Our booking in Minneapolis was for the Sheraton Ritz, but by the time we arrived the place had become the Minneapolis Plaza, having been bought by the Howard Johnson chain. Luckily I resisted attempts to divert the booking to the less conveniently sited Sheraton Park Place. Relationships between American hotel chains are complex. It is not only that the (huge) expensive Warwick in Houston has nothing in common with the (very inferior) Warwick in Philadelphia. A hotel may be called by Hyatt, and managed by Marriott. Before committing yourself to a single chain, check guidebooks carefully for each hotel's credentials. Ask also about possible discounts, weekend package plans, and business rates: Americans are enthusiastic bargain hunters, so there must be bargains to be had.

Travel Lesson No. 7

You get nothing unless you ask. It was almost standard throughout the trip that messages were not delivered unless I asked for them. Sometimes several. The Warwick, Houston, took the biscuit for mishandled messages, delivering at 10.37pm a message left more than 11 hours previously. The message

was from a lady waiting downstairs.

Travel Lesson No. 8

Tie a yellow ribbon (or something distinctive) round your luggage. It was leaving American Airlines' flight 444 from Houston to Dallas that I committed the classic *faux pas*. I was crossing America, for speed and to avoid the risk of losing my bags, with hand baggage only. I had a Lark bag, ideal for the job. Alas, so did Jerry Schyler. His was identical, and it was his I grabbed when hurriedly disembarking at Dallas. I discovered the mistake at 10 that night, when I found Mr Schyler's tartan shirt where my clean underpants should have been.

The flight had been going through to Minneapolis. It had also been connecting with some 20 departures to other parts. Amazingly the baggage service of American (which has to be my favourite airline) was still open, until 2am in fact, and had already planned to reunite me with my bag when I checked in for the flight to Los Angeles, next day, if they had not heard from me before. They telephoned Mr Schyler who, as luck had it, was only minutes away, and retrieved his possessions, with my abject apologies, shortly after.

Travel Lesson No. 9

Take insurance, and carry it with you. In Los Angeles the hotel doctor was called. He stayed five minutes, syringed an ear, and handed out a listful of antibiotics. For this he charged

his minimum fee, \$50, and when I paid over the money said: "Are you sure it's all here? It feels kind of thin."

Travel Lesson No. 10

The cheaper you eat the better. American food is over-fussy. Even "traditional" English breakfast comes with water-melon bites, an adornment of orange twist and glazed cherries. I ordered local specialties whenever possible: fried Chesapeake chowder in Baltimore and Minnesota wall-eyed pike in Minneapolis were not bad, but rattlesnake pike was consistently off. For my money the best meals were quick ones, snatched in airport cafés. At Carsons Tartan Tray café in Chicago's O'Hare airport, a bowl of honest beef goulash at \$4 was better than anything I could have had from the airport Hilton.

Travel Lesson No. 11

You do not have to wait for your flight. From Los Angeles to San Francisco I was booked on United 1110, Ralph Nader, the American consumer champion, was booked on it too. When we reached the departure gate there was no aircraft outside. Nader, swiftly disappeared. Although the airline delayed announcing the fact, the flight was delayed by fog in San Francisco. They kept mum, patiently, in case other passengers followed Nader's lead, and switched to other flights coming from different points of origin.

After we had boarded, the flight was delayed again in take on more fuel - and another passenger successfully insisted that he be allowed off since he could no longer hope to keep his appointment.

Travel Lesson No. 12

There is no such thing as a quick get-out. Almost all my hotels claimed to have express check-out arrangements, but all hotel bills require close examination. Twice I had been double-charged for rooms. Keep a record of the tabs you sign, and have it with you ready to argue.

Robin Young

Little choice for cheap flights to Scandinavia

Compared with other areas of Europe, Scandinavia is a tightly controlled market for cut-price fares. But it can also be argued that this lack of choice makes it easier to see what is available.

Nearly all the fare-savers are for scheduled flights. Although plenty of charter flights come to England bringing Scandinavians on sightseeing and shopping trips, agents cannot sell seats in the reverse direction.

Official tickets

Both British Airways and the Scandinavian airlines offer APEN and Eurostar fares valid for stays of up to three months. APEN tickets must be booked at least 21 days before travel and they are only valid on certain mid-week flights. Eurostar fares are costlier but they can be bought at any time and used for any flight.

The following are examples of return APEN fares from London with Eurostar fares in brackets. Those from other cities may be more expensive.

Copenhagen	£122	(£162)
Gothenburg	£127	(£174)
Helsinki	£159	(£235)
Oslo	£122	(£133)
Stockholm	£107	(£153)
	£159	(£213)

Special offers

These are limited but as long as you are prepared to use selected departure points or flights you can make good savings on the official fares. As a further bonus you can book your seat up to the last minute, subject of course to availability.

To Copenhagen, for example, London Slade Travel offers two return fares. One costs £139 and is for flights to and from

Heathrow on Fridays. The other, from Glasgow, costs £141 and is valid on a couple of flights each week.

Scantours offers the widest range of low-cost flight deals under its "Budget Scanflights" and "Flexiflights" programmes.

Most "Scanflight" fares are valid for Thursday departures from Heathrow or Gatwick, returning the following Sunday or Monday. In some cases you can stay longer for a £10 surcharge.

Examples fall return fares: Bergen £135, Helsinki £205, Gothenburg/Copenhagen £150, Oslo £160, Reykjavik £195, Stavanger £135 and Stockholm £183.

"Flexiflights" offer direct flights to Scandinavia (except Helsinki) from provincial cities. In the case of Stavanger and Bergen these include Gatwick. You have some flexibility with the travel dates, flights used and lengths of stay. The basic price covers a stay of between three and seven nights depending on the destination. There is a supplement for longer stays.

The following are examples of what is on offer:

Bergen	Price: £125-£145
Gothenburg from Aberdeen	Price: £145-£160
Glasgow and Manchester	Price: £145-£160
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Guide to the pound abroad

continued from page 11
guests get a 50 per cent discount.

Meals in even the most elegant restaurants are relatively cheap. Many hotels offer an open buffet with a wide variety of dishes at a fixed price of about £6.50 without drinks. Prices vary greatly in other restaurants on the Algarve and in Lisbon: a steak dinner with wine and dessert in a luxury restaurant can cost around £10 per person, but an excellent meal can be obtained in a more modest place for as little as £3.10, with wine included.

Watch out for catches in the menu in tavern-type beach places. Certain fish and sea food may appear on the menu with the letters "PV" in place of a price. This means the price is variable and can come as a terrible shock when the bill arrives. Lobsters, for example, cost about £16 per kilo.

SWITZERLAND

There are the conventional buys in Switzerland - chocolate, cheese, Swiss Army pocket knives, watches and so on - but don't waste too much time looking for best buys. Anything in that category is likely to be fortuitous, to be chased upon, perhaps, antiques or old books shop away from the centre or restored old towns where such establishments are liable to have an exceedingly sharp market-value sense.

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Austria

Austria is well known for winter sports but there are still parts of the country which are refreshingly free from mass tourism. The rugged, unspoiled and standards of service high, especially in the southern provinces of Styria and Carinthia, even if the once acclaimed Viennese Gemütlichkeit (cosiness) is something of a myth these days.

Finding satisfactory accommodation is rarely a problem, thanks to the survival of that Baedeker relic, the pension house. Usually situated in baroque palaces, they offer charm and cleanliness which rivals many hotels. The ubiquitous art nouveau furniture to be found in them may not be to everyone's taste, but at around £15 a night for a double room with bath, they are particularly welcome in a country which has become more expensive.

For those with more upmarket tastes, Vienna is well equipped with first class hotels, of which the famous Sacher (double room from £55 a night) is only one. But be warned: the establishment which offered unlimited credit to the down-at-heel local aristocracy in the 1920s now refuses to accept the most glittering of credit cards.

Eating out is usually much cheaper than in England as long as one doesn't tire of the heavy Austrian cuisine - no country for vegetarians, this. A three-course dinner for two with an agreeable wine can usually be found for less than £15. Drinks in cafes, however, are considerably more expensive and you are unlikely to find anything for less than £1; but it should be noted that the bill includes the availability of most of the world's leading newspapers, fixed to wooden battens for your perusal, and - at the very best - an hourly supply of local water. With a copy of *The Times* retailing in Austria at well over £1, such advantages cannot be lightly dismissed.

France: Alan Tullier; Spain: Richard Wigg; Italy: Peter Nicholas; Greece: Mario Modiano; United States: Penny Symon; West Germany: Michael Blayon; Netherlands: Robert Schmitt; Portugal: Martha de la Cruz; Switzerland: Alan McGee; Austria: Richard Bassett.

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IN THE GARDEN

Virtues of the popular bleeding hearts

People tend to know many garden plants only by their common name, and the plant's popularity often depends on how easily that name rolls off the tongue.

Bleeding heart is one of the catchiest names, but even so the plant is not grown as much as it might be expected. It has a number of forms, but most people's idea of it is the one known as *Dicentra spectabilis*.

This is about 24in tall, or up to 30in in good positions, with large numbers of heart-shaped flowers, each about an inch long, on graceful arching stems. The flowers are a deep rosy red, with white inner petals dropping from the centre. The plant begins to flower in May, weather permitting, and continues until late June. In general the foliage is ferny light green, and blends well in the garden with the other darker greens of early spring.

Other forms of the plant include *D. spectabilis alba*, which is about 18in high, with small white flowers; it is fairly difficult to obtain and more expensive than *D. spectabilis*.

Dicentra formosa is also about 18in high, but has deeper green leaves, with paler, narrower flowers. Its interesting forms include *Adrian Bloom*, which has near-carmine pink flowers.

D. eximia is ideal in a rock garden or even in sinks or troughs: it reaches between 8in and 10in, and produces many small flowers, including a white form, which last well in the right position. *D. eximia* is at its most prolific in May and June, but it will go on flowering throughout the summer.

Siting is very important. The plant will do well in most situations but results are better if it is placed so as to avoid the heat of the sun, though not under low-branched trees. It likes good light, though partial shade is acceptable if there is good light at some time during the day.

Soils should be rich and deep, and water-retentive, though not



Graceful growth: The attractive *Dicentra spectabilis* with its mass of red and white heart-shaped flowers

High achievers in the pursuit of excellence

...the team were able to graft the American style successfully on to the White Lion pub in Cobham. The timber-framed building was completely cleared of oak beams, Tudor doors and stone fireplaces apart - and country-style furniture and rustic decor reflecting the US state of Vermont were installed with a stateside menu to match. The concept of the "Exchange" was born.

magnification, the Green Man, a large, looming pub overlooking a busy suburban shopping parade. Apart from the discreet neon signs, you would be pushed to detect any signs of upheaval. Inside however, the bar now features cane furniture, pooned palms and the odd stuffed shark hanging from the ceiling, while the restaurant, draped with *all manner of bric-a-brac*, from flintlock pistols to clothes brush and mirror sets,

Long Island Exchange, Victoria
Close, Rickmansworth, Herts (0923
775211)
Everglades Exchange, 128 Hale
Lane, Edgware, Middlesex (959
6403)
Monterey Exchange, Friary Road,
Lichfield, Staffs (05432 51949)
All open noon-11.30pm Mon-Fri;
11am-1.30pm, weekends
Henry J. Bean's (But His Friends
All Call Him Hank) Bar and Grill,
Abingdon Road, London W8. Open
11.30am-11pm daily.

television monitors in the men's lavatory (done out in the style of a spaceship flight deck) which allow you to see who's stealing your chips back in the restaurant. To defuse the obvious criticism, Mr Sherman says simply: "We are not purveyors of bad taste. We're theatrical designers creating an environment in which people can have a good time".

Bob Payton, the American restaurateur who developed the

threaten the existence of traditional pubs, only a small percentage of licensed premises are involved in these changes. Indeed, the real threats come only from the pubs that cannot be bothered with food, or from the theme that either goes too far or disguises lack of imagination. As the pressure mounts and the choices widen, these should become easier to avoid.

Stan Hey

production. It may seem strange that white Rioja did not get more of a head start, but I think it was the adherence to the old white winemaking traditions that actually kept these wines back. It was noticeable in a large white Rioja tasting I organized last year that the top four places all went to new wines made by modern bodegas.

The chief difference between the old and the new is cold fermentation. The most suc-

the fine, grapes Malvasia, the fresh, fruity Viura and the sturdy, big-cropping Garnacha blanco.

Although it is the lively, fresh, cold-fermentation white *lojas* which have, I believe, given Spain a place in the good white wine class, there are one or two oak, traditional white *lojas* that also deserve to be included. The best of these is the Marques de Murrieta's

James Wood Road, Stevedale, Hertfordshire, HX2 8JL, England. Tel: 0454 612285. Fax: 0454 612285. Email: info@jane-macquitty.com

Foodnote

Fast food is an abomination to those who believe in natural ingredients. But there is fast food with a growing number of devotees which is neither packaged nor processed.

It is fresh pasta, and a new shop in Soho is offering it ready-to-cook or, in the downstairs restaurant, ready-to-taste. The speciality is rainbow pasta, which comes in various shapes, all available plain, coloured green with spinach or

There are several heart-and-serve specials. Take a 1-rib marinate (basil and tomato) 90p per 6oz portion, lungfishsteak (mushrooms and pine kernels), £1.20, and *gadiniera* (courgettes, courgettes and asparagus), 95p – all delicious. All these and more are also available at the restaurant, an ideal place for quick and not too heavy pre-theatre or post-theatre suppers. One dish and a glass of wine costs from £2.85 to £4.15, and you can add an Italian ice cream (like a pop-art poster for another £1.65) or so. Pasta Fino is at 27 Frith Street, London W1, is open noon-11.30pm.

B.D.

Drink

Tasteful American ideas revive a British tradition

Experiences in the pub architecture. Mr Sherman and his team were able to graft the American style successfully on to the White Lion pub in Cobham. The timber-framed building was completely cleared of oak beams, Tudor doors and stone fireplaces, apart - and country-style furniture and rustic decor reflecting the US state of Vermont were installed with a stateside menu to match. The concept of the "Exchange" was born.

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television monitors in the men's lavatory (done out in the style of a spaceship flight deck) which allow you to see who's stealing your chips back in the restaurant. To defuse the obvious criticism, Mr Sherman says simply: "We are not purveyors of bad taste. We're theatrical designers creating an environment in which people can have a good time".

Bob Payton, the American restaurateur who developed the

threaten the existence of traditional pubs, only a small percentage of licensed premises are involved in these changes. Indeed, the real threats come only from the pubs that cannot be bothered with food, or from the theme that either goes too far or disguises lack of imagination. As the pressure mounts and the choices widen, these should become easier to avoid.

Stan Hey

production. It may seem strange that white Rioja did not get more of a head start, but I think it was the adherence to the old white winemaking traditions that actually kept these wines back. It was noticeable in a large white Rioja tasting I organized last year that the top four places all went to new wines made by modern bodegas.

The chief difference between the old and the new is cold fermentation. The most suc-

the fine, grapes Malvasia, the fresh, fruity Viura and the sturdy, big-cropping Garnacha blanco.

Although it is the lively, fresh, cold-fermentation white *lojas* which have, I believe, given Spain a place in the good white wine class, there are one or two oak, traditional white *lojas* that also deserve to be included. The best of these is the Marques de Murrieta's

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Stan Hey

REVIEW Rock & jazz records of the month

This summer's flavour must be Bananarama

There is a moment during Bananarama's second LP that will not be bettered this summer, whether by Bruce Springsteen or anyone else. "Hot Line to Heaven" is already a very good song when, after five minutes or so, it suddenly halts and reduces to a single strumming acoustic guitar joined in leisurely succession by the lustrant synthesized bass characteristic of productions by Tony Swaine and Steve Jolley, by handclaps, by a string synthesizer, by a chattering electric guitar and, eventually, by the voices of Karen, Sarah and Siobhan.

What it reminds me of is the Mama's and the Papa's, "California Dreaming" and "Dedicated to the One I Love" are the reference points: a summer sound of white pop music to insert between the hotter, darker slabs of soul.

This is a most accomplished record, full of charming surprises. "Crucial Summer" replays "It Might As Well Rain (Until September)" and "Sealed With a Kiss" for the 1980s, while "The Shape I'm In" is an electro version of northern soul more artful than anything Soft Cell have achieved.

Swaine and Jolley produce Bananarama as they produce Imagination and Spandau Ballet, with immense style and subtlety. It is hard to imagine that "Crucial Summer", "Dream Baby" and especially "Hot Line to Heaven" will not be the flavour of the summer in discotheques from St Ives to St Tropez. Their sound is the closest to an indivisible international style that, Abba apart, pop has yet achieved.

Swaine and Jolley love textures, from the rubber cushion of their synthetic bass to the schoolgirl plainness of the banana girls. So does Stewart Copeland, the drummer of the Police, whose soundtrack to Francis Ford Coppola's outstanding film *Rumble Fish* is evidence of a previously unsuspected talent.

Copeland accompanies Coppola's poetic, dream-like vision of small-town teenage life with something completely unexpected. The easy option would have been Springsteen or Bob Seger; the James Dean style updated for the Compact Disc generation. Instead Copeland has invented a kind of music that sounds like Elvis's old Sun

Bananarama: Bananarama (London RAMA 2).
Stewart Copeland: Rumble Fish (A&M AMLX 64985).
Daniel Ponce: New York Now! (OAO 002).
Solomon Burke: Cry to Me (Charly R&B CRB 1075).

Records backing band filtered through Ennio Morricone's imagination: a skewed impression of basic rockabilly warped into a series of exciting miniatures.

No less in love with colour and effect is Daniel Ponce, a conga player who arrived in the United States from Cuba on the celebrated (or infamous) refugee ship *Marcel* in 1980, and who has subsequently made a considerable reputation for his work with Paquito D'Rivera, the former saxophonist with Irakere, and Jorge Datto, the talented salsa pianist.

New York Now! is mostly a celebration of percussion, but exposure to the contemporary Manhattan scene ensures a degree of genre-bending buried beneath the traditional-sounding choruses and the implacable hand-drumming. It will not be to everyone's taste, but it should certainly be heard by those who last year fell under the spell of King Sunny Ade.

By contrast, listening to Solomon Burke is like putting on a pair of old slippers. One of the finest soul men of the halcyon era of the middle 1960s, Burke has been poorly served by history: Otis Redding and Marvin Gaye are far better remembered. *Cry to Me*, the first anthology of his vintage recordings, should make some redress, since it includes the incomparably rousing "Everybody Needs Somebody to Love", the tragic "The Price", and his sharp reading of Dylan's "Maggie's Farm".

Sadly, though, where it could have been perfect, it is not. Several inferior songs are included, at the expense of such perfect artifacts as "Only Love (Can Save Me Now)", "Someone to Love Me", "No No I Can't Stop Loving You Now" and "Dance Dance Dance". The album does, however, contain the immortal "Goodbye Baby (Baby Goodbye)". For all its flaws, *Cry to Me* is historically essential.

Richard Williams



Dessert rock: Bananarama (top) and Blancmange, bursting with good things



A big brother who has blossomed in the shade

Older brothers of prodigies everywhere can take heart from *Scenes in the City*, which would be remarkable even if it were not the leadership debut of the brother of Wynton Marsalis, the most celebrated new jazz star in decades.

A couple of years older than Wynton, at 23, Branford Marsalis has blossomed in his shadow. I thought his playing with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers a couple of years ago was full of promise; last year he set the seal of maturity on his work with the old Miles Davis rhythm section in the VSOP II concert on the South Bank. Now, with *Scenes in the City*, he displays for the first time his true depth, versatility and potential.

The repertoire is thoughtfully organized around a variety of

Branford Marsalis: Scenes in the City (CBS 25952).
Wynton Kelly/George Coleman: Live in Baltimore (Affinity AFF 108, two records).

rhythm-section players, of whom the bassist, Charnett Moffett (the 16-year-old son of Charles Moffett, Ornette Coleman's erstwhile drummer) is astonishingly inventive in "Waiting for Tain", while Marvin Smith, another young man, drums with a precocious authority on several tracks.

Marsalis concentrates on the soprano and tenor saxophones, which I find rather a pity since I admire the originality of his attitude to the alto saxophone, unheard since his stint with Blakey. It is pleasing to report,

however, that the influence of Wayne Shorter appears to have diminished: the coiled convolutions of "No Backstage Pass", a blues improvised with the aid of Smith and Ron Carter, has the particular intensity of Sam Rivers - a more stimulating model.

The title track is a true curiosity. "Scenes in the City" was an essay in the briefly fashionable form of poetry-with-jazz, conceived by Charles Mingus in 1957. Branford, an expanded ensemble and the narrator, Ed Williams, stick to the original script and create a piece of beatnik revivalism to rival Tom Waits's early work.

I lost my heart to Wynton Kelly about twenty years ago, via a fragment of solo piano called "Love I've Found You" which Miles Davis saw fit to

include as the tailpiece to the first volume of his quintet's live recordings at the Blackhawk club in San Francisco. Something about that trifle glowed with an uncommon joy, an optimism which I later realized suffused every note Kelly played until his death in 1971.

Live in Baltimore was recorded in 1967 by Kelly with George Coleman (another Davis graduate) on tenor saxophone, Ron McClure on the bass and the great Jimmy Cobb at the drums. The tapes are by no means perfect (there is the occasional momentary garble, and more than the average amount of permanent distortion), but the beauty of Kelly's soul shines through every chorus.

R. W.

Bright look back to the days of pop with strings attached

Echo and the Bunnymen Ocean Rain (Korova Kode 8).
Blancmange Munge Tout (London SH18554).
The Cure The Top (Fiction Fics 9).
R. Stevie Moore Everything (New Rose).
Shockability Colosseum (Rough 98).

While there is nothing particularly novel about orchestrated rock, or pop with strings attached, very few artists have the courage or desire to realize its potential. The yardstick for such experiments remains The Beatles' "A Day in the Life", a conceptual success that owed more to producer George Martin's experience with the medium than any desire of Lennon and McCartney to give their work a classical twist.

Now that string synthesizers can also sound sterile. *Moving Along*, the recent album by Madness, helped restate the case for employing anonymous musicians in dinner jackets. David Bedford's sophisticated arrangements made the perfect accompaniment to the band's fairground atmospheres.

This month Liverpool's Echo and the Bunnymen carry the torch lit by their more illustrious Scouse forebears. *Ocean Rain* has strings with everything, a move that may not delight all their fans, weaned on the harder rock of their previous sets, but which results



Quirky cult: Robert Smith, lackadaisical leader of The Cure

in a lighter and fresher approach to the new material.

This time vocalist Ian McCulloch has tempered his metaphysical songs with a romantic sweetness and the band's melodies are more to the fore. Acoustic guitars, brushes and sparingly used keyboards all add to the album's optimistic warmth and there is a consistency of atmosphere in songs like "Seven Seas" and "Silver", the current single, which justifies the departure.

Blancmange, that odd duo comprising Stephen Luscombe and Neil Arthur, have extended their ambition way beyond the confines of electronic pop. *Munge Tout*, their second album, is bursting with good things. A satyric ballad called "Time Becomes The Tide" features cellos and violins, while elsewhere they carry off a barber-shop blues, "See The Train", and tackle an Abba classic, "The Day Before You Came", with a precision that brings out the Brell-like characteristics of the song.

I have never been quite so enamoured of The Cure's quirky, dense rock, although occasional songs in the past - "A Forest" and "Love Cats", for example - have suited the lackadaisical nature of leader Robert Smith quite well. *The Top* submerges Smith's offbeat melodies beneath layers of bizarre instrumentation and effects, and the songs seldom justify the flippancy of Smith's rather mostly of himself.

Max Bell

Dancing all the way back to gangland

West Side Story burst on the London stage just over 25 years ago, arousing excitement and an appreciation of the spectacular dancing, not to mention the music, which reverberated throughout the theatre for years.

A new production of this Broadway musical is being presented from next week at Her Majesty's Theatre, in London, where it opened in December 1958. The associations between the two productions do not end there: the original direction and choreography of Jerome Robbins have been reproduced by Tom Abbot, who played in the original production and became a close friend of Robbins.

But while the production will follow Robbins's ideas, there is one big difference from the 1958 version: the cast will be all-British instead of all-American. Then it was accepted that suitable home-grown actors and actresses were not available; now, however, according to Richard Pilbrow, who is presenting the show for Theatre Projects Associates, "Andrew Lloyd Webber and others tell us that we are as good as the Americans and he has used his own musicals to prove it. I do not actually believe it, but we do have singers and dancers who are good."

It will also look different: looking back, Pilbrow remembers the original show using back lighting and gauzes and being "a bit old-fashioned". Stagecraft has changed direction since then and this production, designed by Martin Johns, "is more realistic and modern."

Pilbrow saw the new *West Side Story* at the Leicester Haymarket, where it opened before Christmas; since then it has had a highly successful run in Manchester, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Audiences have not been going to see it just out of nostalgia, and a large proportion of those buying tickets have been in their early twenties. Pilbrow believes one reason is that dance is much more popular now, partly through the influence of John Travolta and the kids from Fame.

The other is that the story is "uncomfortably relevant. In 1958 we did not have the racial tension and gang warfare that form the theme. *West Side Story* was so prophetic, and it remains



Gang show: English Jets in *West Side Story*, previewing at Her Majesty's this week

so right now. It is also about lunatic misunderstandings between people, which is certainly relevant."

West Side Story was written by Arthur Laurents, with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, a formidable team of collaborators. There are no established stars in the new production, but then, as Pilbrow points out, it was the show which made stars of the cast when it was first performed.

The cast of Sharks and Jets and their girls is led by Steven Pacey as Tony, Jan Hartley as Maria, Lee Robinson as Anita, Richard A. Pettifer as Riff and Sam Williams as Bernardo. Casting has been going on since last August, with changes along the way.

There have been several revivals of *West Side Story* and about three years ago it appeared again on Broadway. Arthur Laurents saw it then and judged it technically perfect and generally "not bad". He has seen the new production on its travels and has pronounced himself "thrilled".

Christopher Warman

West Side Story previews at Her Majesty's Theatre (930 6605) from Tues. Opens May 16. Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8pm; matinee Wed at 2pm.

Critics' choice

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SEX Lyrics, Hammersmith (741 2311). Final performances today at 4pm and 7.45pm.

The two-man National Theatre of Brent presents the private lives of inter alia Edward VIII, rabbits, Adrian Mole's distinguished and spectacular production sets Shakespeare's great problem comedy in the sinister world of an eighteenth-century absolute monarchy.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Barbican (829 8795/838 8891). Friday at 7.30pm. In repertory with *The Comedy of Errors* (today and Thurs at 2pm and 7.30pm, Mon and Wed at 7.30pm, Tues at 7pm).

Adrian Mole's distinguished and spectacular production sets Shakespeare's great problem comedy in the sinister world of an eighteenth-century absolute monarchy.

PASSION PLAY Wyndham's (636 3028). Mon-Fri at 6pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Surely the best comedy in London. Vinty, sad and dazzlingly intricate, Peter Nichols's award-winning 1981 play about unwitting adultery now stars Leslie Phillips and Judy Parfitt, with Barry Forster and Zena Walker offering advice and reproach as their identically dressed inner selves.

POPPY NONGENA Riverside Studios (748 3354). Until tomorrow, Sat, Sun at 8pm. This acclaimed show from black South Africa has proved a great

success in London: a story of a harassed, endlessly wandering family that is both tragic and uplifting. Transfers to the Donmar Warehouse (836 1071) from Thurs (Mon-Sat at 8pm).

SAINT JOAN Olivier (928 2252). Wed-Fri at 7.15pm. In repertory with *Guys and Dolls* by Frank Loesser (today and Tues at 2pm and 7.15pm, Mon at 7.15pm).

In Ronald Eyre's spectacular production, Shaw's great play tells especially this vast auditorium without ever quite stifling the doubts it always raises. Strong cast, led by Frances de la Tour's gritty, rustic visionary.

STRAKE INTERLUDE Duke of York's (836 5122). Mon-Sat at 6pm. Triumphant, very sensitive revival of Eugene O'Neill's 1927 marathon piece (it lasts for five hours) about a young woman (Glenda Jackson) who loses her fiancé and appraises a contrasted riot of lovers, played by Edward Petherbridge, Brian Cox and James Hazelline. In search of satisfaction as a wife and mother.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Mermoid (235 5568). Until May 26, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Sat at 3pm. Gripping new revival of Tennessee Williams's masterpiece, interestingly reinterpreted by director Alan Strachan and with an overwhelming performance by Sheila Gish in the grueling central role.

Out of Town

CHICHESTER: Festival Theatre (0243 781312). Forty Years On by Alan Bennett. Today and Tues-Fri at 7.30pm; matinee today at 2.30pm. In repertory. Opening production of the 1984 season: Paul Eddington, Annette Crosbie, Doris Hare and 20 Sussex schoolboys in the first major revival of a well-remembered comedy from the late 1960s. Directed by Patrick Garland.

PITLOCHRY: Festival Theatre (0786 2680). On the Razzle by Tom Steward. Today at 2pm, Wed, Sat 2pm and 8pm, Thurs at 8pm. In repertory with Hedda Gabler (today, Tues and Fri at 8pm) and, on Fri at 11am, an open rehearsal of Coward's *Custard by Gerald Frow*, Alan Strachan, Wendy Toye, from the work of Noel Coward. Frazee Hines, Sunny Ormrod, Phillip Reader, John Webb, Malcolm McKee, in Stoppard's celebration of farce, directed by Sue Wilson; opening production of the 1984 season here.

SCARBOROUGH: Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round (0723 370541). A Chorus of Disapproval by Alan Ayckbourn. Today and Tues-Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. A new play in its first public run: a recently widowed man joins a local light-operative society and soon begins an affair with a fellow-member. The production of *The Beggar's Opera* does not go according to plan. Ayckbourn directs, with Paul Todd (also in the cast) as musical director.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 256223). The Merchant of Venice. Today and Mon-Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 1.30pm. In repertory.

New production, directed by John Caird, with Ian McDiarmid as Shylock, Adam Barham as Bassanio, Frances Tomelty as Portia.

Henry V. Today at 1.30pm, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory. Kenneth Branagh leads in the first new production of the play at Stratford since 1977. Adrian Noble directs a cast including Sebastian Shaw, Harold Innocent, Brian Blessed, Patricia Routledge. The Other Place (0789 256223). Romeo and Juliet. Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory.

New production (launched by the company last winter) with Simon Templeman and Amanda Root in the title roles. John Caird directs. Camille by Pam Gems. Today, Mon-Wed at 7.30pm. In repertory. Premiere production, directed by Ron Daniels, based on *La Dame aux Camélias* by Alexandre Dumas. Frances Barber, Nicholas Farrell, Aphrosia Emmanuel. Music by Liszt, choreography by Anthony van Laast.

WATFORD: Palace (0823 25571). Morning's at Seven by Paul Osborn. Until May 26, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinees May 19 and 26 at 3pm. Vivian Matalon (who directed it on Broadway) again directs this award-winning comedy of small-town America in 1922; Hollywood star Teresa Wright (also in the New York run) is joined by Margaret Tyzack, Faith Brook, Peter Jones, Don Fellows, Alan MacNaughtan, Doreen Mantle, Andréa Melly, John Church.

"People are immediately struck by their glamour, but then you see them doing a double-take", says Iwona Blazwick of the works she is gathering for "Jeff Wall Transparencies", an exhibition opening at the Institute of Contemporary Arts on Wednesday.

"Glamour" in Iwona's words means "larger than life" both in respect of size and materials. One work is 33ft wide; others had to stay at home in Canada because "they wouldn't fit through the ICA's doors." "He has used photography, the medium of our century," says Iwona, "with cibachrome colour, which looks almost too good to be true. It's real Marlborough Man blue, lit from

PREVIEW Galleries

behind as in glossy adverts." And so, seduced into admiring these images, the viewer is expected to wonder what is actually going on. In *Mimic* there is apparently some kind of interchange between the three figures that stride towards the viewer, an orientalist, appears to look suspiciously at the other, who in turn is making a gesture with his hand. Is it racial? Or simply innocent? A girl walks hand in hand with the second man, or is she being dragged? "Lots of possible narratives are set up in one banal scene," says Iwona. "Wall is strongly influenced by Hitchcock."

Jeff Wall, aged 38, an associate professor of visual art

at the Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, also likes to fill his works with air-historical references, placing himself within the tradition of the master. His version of Manet's *Olympia*, however, is a male model on an acrylic sofa; his updated Van Dyck portrait of a child prince shows a modern boy wearing shorts and sneakers and, bylined with a ludicrously large backpack.

This is Wall's first one-man exhibition in Europe, and will be shown at the Kunststiftung Basel in September.

Sarah Jane Checkland

"Jeff Wall Transparencies" can be seen at the ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (9303847). Wed to June 17.

Critics' choice

Moreish: Detail from Jerome's The Moorish Bath (RA)

the changing tastes of the art nouveau and art deco periods as well as Bauhaus and, in postwar days, the vogues of pop and op art. All are represented in this century show, which brings the story up to date with the designs specially commissioned from such as Vasarely, Paoletti and Moore.

ROSENTHAL Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 (589 8371). Until July 1, Mon-Thurs at 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm.

The Rosenthal porcelain company has produced many memorable shapes and decorations, reflecting

LIVES OF THE SAINTS Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (603 4535). Until May 31, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm.

Rory Coonan and Stuart MacKay went to the remote south Atlantic island of St Helena (nearest landfall 1,000 miles away) to mark the island's 150th anniversary. The islanders themselves, descended from slaves and forcibly independent, are British subjects and the curious hybrid culture which now exists is nicely documented in this impressive collection of sensitive and gentle photographs.

FLOWER SHOW The Olympia Gallery, 24 Princes Street, London W1 (481 751). Until June 1, Mon-Fri 10am-7pm.

A tale for what is in fact a stunning show, taking as its theme flowers within photographs and

10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

The gallery's sixth annual exhibition continues its special line of symbolist art, but extends its taste in more conventional Victorian painters such as William Ernest Reynolds-Stevens and Paul-César Helleu, Belle Époque society painter and etcher.

ANTHONY CARO Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (822 6025). Until May 28, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat and Sun 10am-7pm.

This tribute to one of Britain's leading middle-generation sculptors skips the deconstructive section and the welded steel abstractions which first brought Caro before the public in the 1960s. It begins instead with the early works of his maturity, 1967-70, revealing, but clear evidence of why Caro is where he is today.

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ART 1066-1200. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (826 3144). Until July 8, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm.

Artistic activity in Norman England produced such great illuminated manuscripts as the Winchester Bible, the richly coloured stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral, the gilt Gloucester Casket and the ivory Bury St Edmunds Cross. The finest surviving works are exhibited, together with an audio-visual programme on the buildings for which they were made.

PEINTRES DE L'AMÉRIQUE Whitford and Hughes, 6 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1 (930 5577). Until June 8, Mon-Fri

the changing tastes of the art nouveau and art deco periods as well as Bauhaus and, in postwar days, the vogues of pop and op art. All are represented in this century show, which brings the story up to date with the designs specially commissioned from such as Vasarely, Paoletti and Moore.

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The V & A had originally hoped to stage a retrospective of Brandt's work as an eighth birthday tribute to the master. But Brandt, with sad precision, thought the unwise in case he "didn't make it" he died last December. This show is an attempt to bring his work back to the public.

Bill Brandt: Literary Britain. Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (589 8371). Until May 20, Mon-Thurs

Theatre: Anthony Mann and Irving Winkler. Collette, John Russell Taylor and Sarah Jane Checkland. Photographs: Michael Young.

PREVIEW Films

Critics' choice

AND THE SHIP SAILS ON (15)
Academy One, Oxford Street (437 2881)
All aboard the SS Federico Fellini for a symbolic ocean trip in the summer of 1974, with an assorted company of opera singers, politicians, scientists and artists. Fairly brilliant, partly tedious, and strained. Franchise is a pop opera, British-flavoured past.

CARMEN (15)
Carson (437 3737/8)
Carmen's second collaboration with director Antonio Gades and his troupe. Rehearsals for a flamenco-style Carmen ballet are interwoven with a weak story of jealous love. Less potent than the original Blood Wedding, but the dancing remains irresistible.

DAMEL TAKES A TRAIN (15)
Globe Notting Hill (222 2222/27 0705)
Director Paul Szoldar presents a gripping, multi-layered portrait of Hungary in December 1956, when old loyalties to family, to country, to the Party are cruelly tested. Atmospheric photography, resonant performances by Peter Siskoff and Sándor Zsolt as two young men heading towards the Austrian border.

THE DEAD ZONE (18)
ABC Baywater (222 4149)
ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861)
Classic Haymarket (839 1527)
Classic Oxford Street (836 6316)
and on national release
Cronenberg forges his usual gory shocks for this absorbing version of Stephen King's horror novel about a teacher (Christopher Walken) emerging from a five-year coma with second sight. Cohesion is damaged by the plot's weak links into politics, but performances are well judged and the atmosphere often unnerving. With Brooke Adams, Martin Sheen.

THE DRESSER (PG)
Odeon Haymarket (830 2738)
Odeon Kensington (802 6644)
Classic Chelsea (352 5086)
and on national release
Proficient screen treatment of Ronald Harwood's stage hit about an actor-manager and his assistant struggling through King Lear despite Hitler's bombs, fractious actors, and crumbling health. The backstage atmosphere is usefully enlarged; Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay play with great verve and panache. Directed by Peter Yates.



Feeding time: Kristy McNichol serves up a hamburger for the ferocious hound in Sam Fuller's *White Dog*

GREYSTOKE: THE LEGEND OF TARZAN (PG)
ABC Baywater (222 4149)
ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)
ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)
Warner West End (493 0781)
The first film directed by Hugh Hudson since his much-garlanded *Chariots of Fire* contains the last screen appearance of Sir Ralph Richardson. A modest and interesting treatment of the original Tarzan novel lurks somewhere inside this wayward spectacular. Hudson never quite drags it out, though there is always something to watch, from the simian special effects to Sir Ralph's performance.

EDUCATING RITA (PG)
Classic Oxford Street (836 0310)
Odeon Kensington (802 6644)
Royal Charing Cross Road (830 6315)
Michael Caine and Julie Walters in Lewis Gilbert's award-winning film adapted from the stage play by Willy Russell.

FANNY AND ALEXANDER (15)
Cinema Plaza (485 2443)
Ingmar Bergman's Oscar-winning evocation of life, joys and terrors, staged with exceptional colour, beauty and lightness of touch. It was judged the best foreign language picture.

LIFE IS A BED OF ROSES (PG)
Chelsea Cinema (351 3742)
ends on Wed
Alain Resnais's latest film defies clear categorization: a philosophical musical fantasy, perhaps, built round the themes of imagination, education, and utopian dreams. It similarly defies a clear response: the foggy ideas

and crisp visuals variously provoke amazement, delight, irritation, and yawns. With Vittorio Gassman, Ruggero Raimondi, Geraldine Chaplin, Fanny Ardant.

THE MISSION (PG)
Academy 3, Oxford Street (437 8819)
The film style may be unpolished, but the material and production context are fascinating: this drama about a young man sent to Manhattan to assassinate an enemy of the Khmer regime was made by Iranians exiled in America. Written, produced and directed by Parviz Sayyad.

THE RIGHT STUFF (15)
Warner West End (439 0781)
Tom Wolfe's novel about America's space pioneers, brought to the screen as a sumptuous, three-hour epic. The style veers between irreverent comedy and worshipful, patriotic drama, compulsive viewing with sharp insights into space-race ballyhoo. It won a clutch of Oscars.

RUMBLE FISH (18)
Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177/8402)
ends Thurs
Francis Coppola's latest film defies all categories: a black and white fantasy about youthful hopes and alienation, shot with determined poetic intent and meshed with a riveting rhythmic score by Stewart Copeland (from the rock group The Police). Featured players Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke effortlessly merge into the crazy fabric of shadows, scudding clouds and surreal compositions.

SAM FULLER SEASON
Scale King's Cross (278 8052/0051) every Thurs until May 31

Prepare for cinematic bombardment to coincide with the release of *White Dog*, the Scala presents a selection of Sam Fuller's most forceful and bizarre films. This week: the brilliant gangster drama *Underworld USA* (1953) and the diverting Fox Thriller *Pickup on South Street* (1953).

SILKWOOD (15)
Odeon Rochester Square (930 6111)
The disturbing story of nuclear plant employee Karen Silkwood, dubbed by some "the first nuclear martyr" after her death in a mysterious car accident. Mike Nichols, returning to films after eight years, directs with modesty and sobriety. Meryl Streep gets off her high horse and gives enjoyable life to a prickly, lower-class heroine. With Kurt Russell, Cher, Craig T. Nelson.

SWANN IN LOVE (18)
Lumiere, St Martin's Lane (838 0591)
Volker Schlöndorff's film merely dips into Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu*, but therein lies its success. The episode of Swann's infatuation with the beautiful but dubious Odette is conveyed with lucidity, calm, exquisite photography (Steven Nykyst) and a central performance from Jeremy Irons that expertly captures the melancholic elegance of Proust's bohemian Jew. Odette played by co-star, splendid support from Alan Delon as Baron de Charlus.

TENDER MERCIES (PG)
Classic Oxford Street (836 0310)
Quietly released in 1983, Bruce Beresford's atmospheric drama returns to London boasting two Oscars. Robert Duvall was voted best actor for his portrayal of a former country-and-western singer coming to terms with himself and his past: the film was also judged to have the best screenplay written directly for the screen.

WHITE DOG (15)
Electric Screen (229 3684)
Cinecitta Pantons Street (930 0631)
"What you've got there, Julie, is a four-legged time bomb!" says the heroine's boyfriend, eyeing a dog that ferociously attacks blacks. Luckily, Sam Fuller's direction is far less bold than his script (derived from a book by Roman Gary): the film, made in 1981, steadily builds into an extraordinary, sledge-hammering and anti-racist drama. With Kristy McNichol, Paul Winfield and Burl Ives.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Shocker who poses awkward questions

Films on TV

This is Louis Malle week on BBC2. It opens tomorrow with an *Arena* documentary on the controversial French director (9.05-10.05pm) and continues with showings of two of his best films, *Atlantic City* and *Lacombe Lucien*.

The *Arena* programme is a useful clips-and-interview survey of Malle's work in which he talks - in *Atlantic City* - to Wallace Shawn, the American actor who starred in Malle's feature, *My Dinner With Andre*. Hence the programme's title, *My Dinner With Louis*.

Malle emerges as a personable and articulate man who explains that his early impulse as a film maker was "to shock the social group I came from" (the wealthy commercial class) and says he tries to have an audience leaving the cinema with more questions than when it went in.

Malle announced himself in 1958 when the uninhibited love scenes of his second film, *Les Amants*, caused something of a scandal - though it is unlikely they would now - and he has been stirring up audiences, critics and censors ever since.

Along the way he has dealt with incest in *Murmur of the Heart* and child prostitution in the infamous *Pretty Baby*; and he has managed to enrage the Indian government with his graphic depiction of that country's poverty and squalor in his series for BBC television.

He expounded another uncomfortable view in his 1974 film, *Lacombe Lucien* (showing a week today, 9.55pm-12.01am). Set in rural France in the summer of 1944, it showed how some of his fellow countrymen were only too happy to collaborate with the German occupiers.

This is demonstrated through the character of Lucien, a 17-year-old farm boy ignorant of the ways of the world, who naively offers himself to the resistance, is rebuffed, and accidentally lands in the opposite camp, with the local Gestapo.

Not having any strong politi-



Collaborators: Louis Malle (right) working with Pierre Blaise, the non-professional actor who starred in *Lacombe Lucien*

cal convictions, he joins the collaborators and is soon aping their behaviour. The complication comes when he falls for the daughter of a distinguished Jew although, typically, he sees no conflict of loyalty.

Malle tells the story at considerable - slightly excessive - length, building his scenes with careful detail and never letting his technique intrude. Not for the first (or the last) time in his work, an explosive theme is handled in a matter-of-fact way.

In the interview Malle explains the character of Lucien as "someone who did not have the information to know what he was doing". Elsewhere the director has said: "I wanted to

show ordinary fascism, to tell about the obscure, mediocre people who are not in the history books".

Though Malle's films have often attacked the bourgeoisie, *Lacombe Lucien* incurred the wrath of the French left for suggesting that traitors could come from the proletariat. Lucien is played by Pierre Blaise, a performance all the more remarkable as Blaise was not a professional actor.

On Thursday (9-10.40pm) there is a first television showing of Malle's acclaimed film from 1980, *Atlantic City*, which he describes as "closer to a documentary than anything else I have made". The city itself is certainly a star of the

movie, its crumbling seediness never far from the camera. The human element is in keeping, a collection of losers and misfits who are content to exist and have difficulty doing even that. It is a grubby world of gangsters and drugs and gambling, which presumably appealed to Malle as being in such contrast to his own background.

Completed in only four months to make use of a Canadian tax shelter, and partly improvised, *Atlantic City* is a funny-sad and sharply observed film that may not raise questions as Malle would like but works triumphantly in its own terms. BBC1, Lancaster as the aging crook has seldom been more effective.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended
Beau Geste (1939): Classic Hollywood version of the P. C. Wren novel, with Gary Cooper, Ray Milland and Robert Preston going off to join the French Foreign Legion (Channel 4, tomorrow, 2.25-4.30pm).

Sugarland Express (1974): First in a BBC1 season called "Love on the run" has Goldie Hawn and Warren Oates as the fugitives in Steven Spielberg's film based on a true event (BBC1, tomorrow, 9.20-11.05pm).

Decline and Fall... Of a broadcaster (1969): Uneven attempt to tackle Evelyn Waugh's first novel, with Robin Phillips as the hapless hero and good character playing from Donald Sinden, Robert Harris, Leo McKern (Channel 4, Mon, 2.55-9pm).

The Train (1964): John Frankenheimer's wartime thriller, with the French resistance trying to prevent art treasures getting to Nazi Germany (BBC2, Mon, 3.55-5.05pm).

The Great Locomotive Chase (1956): More train adventure, this time in a Disney version of the American Civil War incident that inspired Katon's *The General* (BBC1, Mon, 6.05-7.30pm).
The Rebel (1960): Worthily shot at a screen vehicle for the talents of Tony Hancock, in which he plays a frustrated artist trying to win recognition in Paris (BBC2, Wed, 8.40-9.20pm).
The Sin of Father Mowbray (1970): Georges Franju's powerful anticlerical piece about the Zola novel about a priest's relationship with a young woman (Channel 4, Wed, 9.30-11.15pm).

PREVIEW Music

The eighteenth Brighton Festival began at seven last night with a two-minute blast of bell-ringing, horn-blowing, singing and whistling. But serious business starts today. Music, particularly opera, from Poland will provide some of the highlights, and there will be some exploration of Brighton's cultural past in the work of Frank Bridge, Graham Green, Roland Penrose and others.

The visitors from Poland include Krzysztof Penderecki with the Cracow Radio Symphony Orchestra, making its first visit to Britain, the Warsaw Sinfonietta, Teatr Maja, and Warsaw Chamber Opera, and Mine Company in productions at the Theatre Royal of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and, more unusually, *Halka* by the nineteenth-century Polish composer Moniuszko.

The participants in this 17-day sequence include Vlado Perlemuter, Norman del Mar, Vladimir Ashkenazy and James Galway. Local companies such as Cliff Hanger and New Sussex Opera also contribute to the latter's *Andrea Chénier* at the Gardner Centre. Konstanty Kulka, the Polish violinist, will play Paganini at the Old Ship Hotel. The festival will also host the first English Song Award Competition, of which the final concert and award ceremony will be at Brighton College. There is jazz, also, from Satcha Distel, Ben Kessel and Toots Thielmans at The Dome.

The first week's outstanding events begin on Monday with *Halka*, which is repeated on Thursday, and a lunchtime piano recital of Bridge and Beethoven from Bernard Roberts at the Unitarian Church. Irene Ardit's recital the following day includes the world premiere of a specially commissioned piece for violin and piano by Jonathan Harvey, and on Thursday a new trio by Hugh Wood receives its first performance from the Parkland-Fleming-Roberts ensemble.

Max Harrison
The Brighton Festival Office is at Marlborough House, 54 Old Steine, Brighton (0273 882127).



Enchanting: Sylvia Rosenberg (left) and pianist Craig Sheppard rehearse with the Delmé Quartet for tomorrow morning's concert at the Wigmore Hall

Concerts

MUSIC PROJECTS/LONDON
Tomorrow, 5pm, Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (748 3354)
In the first concert of a series called "Japanese New Music Forum", Music Projects/London give the British premiere of Kodai's *Standing*, Takahashi's *Stochastic*, Ichimura's *Stanzas* and Satoh's *Sumaru*.

EUSTACE, BUCKOKE
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
An evening of music for bassoon and/or double bass from Frances Eustace and Peter Buckoke. Included are *The Flight of the Bumble Bee*, Hester's *Bull Steps Out*, Donhoff's *Maline Kleine Haffner Serenade*, Elgar's *Romance*, Finlay's *Song 18*, Gout's *Trio* and Telemann's exciting Bassoon Sonata in E minor.

CAPRICORN ENSEMBLE
Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
The Capricorn ensemble gives the first performance of a new work, as yet unnamed, by Barry Guy. Also plays *Images II*, *Children's Corner*, *La Plus Que Lente*, Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* and Stravinsky's *Les Chansons de Musgrave's Les Chansons de Musgrave*. A nicely varied programme.

DEBUSSY SERIES
Tues, 7.30pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3181, credit cards 928 6544)
The second concert of his Debussy series Paul Roberts plays *Images II*, *Children's Corner*, *La Plus Que Lente*, Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit* and Stravinsky's *Les Chansons de Musgrave's Les Chansons de Musgrave*. A nicely varied programme.

ASHLEY STAFFORD
Tues, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Ashley Stafford, a counter tenor, gives the first performance of *McLeod's Peacocks* with a Hundred Eyes, Marshall's *Songs of Love*, Young's *Songs of Exile* and Dalby's *Songs from the Chinese*.

PRESTON/PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Wed, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall
Simon Preston is the soloist in Handel's *Cuckoo and Nightingale* Organ Concerto. Sarah Walker (mezzo) solos in Bach's *Nun sei das Heil und die Kraft Gottes*, and Sir David Willcocks conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra and Bach Choir in Holst's *Hymn to Jesus* and Elgar's *Musik Makers*.

CHILINGIRIAN QUARTET
Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
As part of the "Sounds of Sweden" series the Chilingirian Quartet performs Stanham's Quartet No 3 and Rosenberg's Quartet No 5. These unknown quartets being contrasted with Haydn's Op 77 No 1.

JOSE FEIGAL
Wed, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
Jose Feigal's ambitious piano recital includes Villa-Lobos's *Alma Brasileira*, Prokofiev's Sonata No 7, Haydn's Sonata No 52, Schumann's *Etude* Symphoniques, Weber's *Variations*, Chopin's *Andante Spianato* and Polonaise Op 22.

THE LABEQUES
Wed, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
Haydn and Mariele Labèque play Brahms's *Haydn Variations* and Walzes Op 39, Stravinsky's Concerto for two pianos and Ravel's *Mother Goose* suite.

ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC
Thurs, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music
RNCM Wind Orchestra offers Florent Schmitt's splendid *Dionysiaques*, Holst's *Hammarsmith* and Suite No 2, and Musgrave's skilful Scottish Dances.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Thurs, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (628 8795, credit cards 628 8891)
"Mozart in May" rolls along with Jeffrey Tate conducting the ECO in the "Jupiter" Symphony and *Clemenza di Tito* Overture; Mitsuko Uchida solos in the K 595 Piano Concerto.

GEMINI ENSEMBLE
Fri, 2pm, Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (223 8413)
The Gemini ensemble's "Composers' Forum" series presents three works by young London composers: Avril Anderson's *Under Pressure*, Ross Lorraine's *Prodigal Daughter* and James Erber's *Working Together*.

NORTHERN MUSIC THEATRE
Fri, 8pm, The Pines, 17 The Pines Road, London WC1 (387 0031)
Conducted by Graham Treacher, Northern Music Theatre gives the London premiere of Philip Grange's *Kingdom of Bones*, Vic Hoyland's *Michael* and Mauricio Kagel's *Pas de Cinq*. The provincial performances of all three have been reviewed with consistent enthusiasm.

DON McLEAN
Tonight, Victoria Hall, Hanley; tomorrow, Huddersfield; Birmingham; Mon, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham; Tues, Free Trade Hall, Manchester; Wed, New Theatre, Hull; Thurs, Fairfield Halls, Croydon; Fri, Forum, Hatfield.

Any man who covers a Roy Orbison song decently is a friend of mine, and McLean also has the weird potency of "American Pie" and the plaintive ballad of "Vincent" in his repertoire.

ROBIN WILLIAMSON
Tonight, Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (223 8413)
There must be tens of thousands of Incredible String Band albums gathering dust in attics around the country. Williamson, who partnered Mike Heron in the 1950s in the late 1960s, has spent much of the last decade in the United States: now he makes a solo appearance, still singing of what he describes as "Celtic roots and legends".

THE CURE
Tonight, Oxford Road; tomorrow, Portsmouth Guildhall; Tues to Thurs, Hammermith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
I liked them better when they were morose and pretentious - before they started taking costume and make-up lessons from Siouxsie and the Banshees.

GENE PITNEY
Tonight, Granada, Wythenshawe; Mon, Middlesbrough Town Hall; Tues, Wed, The Elbow, Neamington; Wed, St David's Hall, Cardiff; Thurs, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham
One of the great singers of pop's age of innocence, Pitney's hit "In the Mood" has been a steady presence in the "Top 100" since it was first recorded in 1962. (produced by Phil Spector). "24 hours from Tulsa" (written by Bud Bacharach) and "24 Sycamore" (a classic which should be better known. Looking at him now, it's hard to believe he once dated Marianne Faithfull and played maracas on "Not Fade Away".

BRUCE FOXTON
Tonight, Queensway Hall, Huddersfield; tomorrow, Gold Diggers, Chippingham; Mon, Birmingham Town Hall; Wed, Rock City, Nottingham; Thurs, Warwick University; Fri, Birmingham Odeon
The former bassist of the Jam takes his new band on the road, playing music rather closer to the style of his old band than that

Rock & Jazz

perfectly capable of creating jazz of a high order.

CHUCK BERRY
Mon/Tues, The Venue, 150 Victoria Street, London SW1 (828 9441)
If you can stand the cynicism which sometimes overpowers his performance, a pilgrimage to see this founding father might be fun. But expect more "My Ding-a-Ling" than "Confessin' the Blues".

THE COCTEAU TWINS
Tues, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191)
Very much the flavour of the season in avant-garde rock circles, the Cocteau are probably best known under another name. As The Mould, they recorded a version of Tim Buckley's "Song to the Siren" so compelling that it topped the independent charts for months; their new single as the Cocteau Twins, the oddly-titled "Pearly Dewdrops Drops", seems to be achieving similar success. Their main asset is the haunting quality of their voices - less stylized than Camel's or Sade's.

PSYCHEDELIC FURS
Wed, Gold Diggers, Chippingham; Thurs, Guildford Civic Hall; Fri, Cardiff University
Now produced by Keith Forsey, Giorgio Moroder's old partner in the founding father might be fun. But expect more "My Ding-a-Ling" than "Confessin' the Blues".

ART ENSEMBLE OF CHICAGO
Fri, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh
So brilliantly staged and cunningly paced that two hours pass in a moment, the Art Ensemble's concerts print themselves indelibly into the memory. Each, in my experience, is unique; each exposes some new facet of this majestic quintet.

BILLY MITCHELL
Fri, 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, London W1 (258 0533)
Born in Kansas City but a product of the Detroit jazz scene, Mitchell sat in the saxophone section of the late Count Basie band of the late 1950s. Dizzy Gillespie, Al Grey and Francy Boland are among his other employers and collaborators; he has also been Stevie Wonder's musical director, and in recent years has devoted most of his time to teaching. A solid citizen of post-bop jazz, Mitchell will be taking his tenor saxophone on tour around Britain.

Hill Smith (Papagena); and Rosenkavaler on Thurs with Josephine Barlow as a vocally and dramatically beguiling Octavian. (836 3161)

SCOTTISH OPERA
The company arrives at Newcastle's Theatre Royal this week with their new and controversial *Turandot*, produced by Tony Palmer on Wed and Fri, and their beautifully staged and well sung *L'Elisir di Cavalli* on Thurs and May 12. They start the week on Tues with a single concert performance of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* plus, as they say, "selections performed by the Scottish Opera Orchestra". (0632 322061)

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
Back from their tour, WNO return to Cardiff's New Theatre this week for their new production of *La Bohème*, rescored by Góran Järnveit after Lucien Pintilie's staging had proved impossible. Performances on Tues and May 12 with Helen Field as Mimì, John Fowler as Rodolfo, Suzanne Murphy as Musetta and Michael Tilson Thomas in the pit. On Fri their art deco *Merry Widow* before *La Traviata* joins the repertoire next week. (0222 32446)

Dance

CUBAN BALLET
Dominion (580 9562). Until May 12, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed and Sat at 2.30pm
Alisa Alonso's production of *Swan Lake* is given until Wed, with a different pair of leading dancers every performance. From Thurs, the second act of *Giselle* is performed with works by two Cuban choreographers.

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1056). Today, Tues, Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm
Antony Tudor's *Shaklopley* is revived tonight, repeating Tues, on a bill with Nijinska's *Les Biches* and Kenneth MacMillan's production of Poulenc's *Gloria*. New casts are due to appear on Thurs and Fri in *Agon* and the new *Flying Figures*, given with Jiri Kylian's *Return to the Strange Land*.

MOLISSA FENLEY
Riverside (748 3354). Tues until Mon (May 12). The *Stranger* is that gifted and dynamic American dancer returns with a new production, *Hemispheres*, in which she is accompanied (for the first time in London) by two other dancers. An unusual feature is that, instead of decor, the Italian painter Francesco Clemente has created a set of prints related to the work and each spectator will be given a folder of them at the door.

NORTHERN BALLET
Bath, Theatre Royal (0225 65085). Tues until May 12 at 7.30pm, matinees Wed and Sat at 2.15pm
The French ballerina Evelyn Desautel will be dancing as guest in some performances of the new *Sleeping Beauty*, alternating with Northern Ballet Theatre's own dancers.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Newcastle, Theatre Royal (0632 322061). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Bournemouth, Pavilion (0202 25361). Mon until May 12 at 7.30pm; matinee Sat at 2.30pm
Les Rendezvous and *Giselle* are given today, Fri and May 12. A mixed bill of *Raymonda*, *Elite Synchronised*, *The Winter Play* (based on folk dances and traditional myths) is on Mon and Tues. David Bentley's new *Metamorphosis* is the centrepiece of a production also including *Symphonic* and *Pineapple Poll* (Wed, Thurs).

Films: David Robinson and Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Dance: John Percival

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Bridge

Lessons in
a common
languageSome years ago I lost my way
when driving in Banffshire.

"Why don't you ask some-

one?" suggested by wife, as

women will, I looked at the

picturesque but desolate land-

scape. As luck would have it, a

mile down the road we saw a

local crofter.

"Could you tell me the way to

Glenlivet?" I inquired. "Aye,

d'ye ken..." he explained in

graphic detail, interspersed with

some historical anecdotes.

Unhappily, his attractive brogue

was so rich that I could not

understand him at all. I thanked

him, drove off, and inevitably

took the wrong turning.

I was reminded of this

experience when playing with a

top-class bridge player who has

been a good friend of mine for

25 years or more.

Rubber Bridge. Dealer West.

East-West game.

Q	K	A	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875

As I put my hand down as East,

I apologized for my possibly

over-cautious approach. The

diamonds were divided 2-2 and

the clubs were also divided, so my

friend made 12 tricks.

"Why did you bid five clubs?"

I had had the ace of hearts, we

would have missed an excellent

slam. I inquired mildly.

"Yes, I probably should have

bid four clubs," my partner

conceded generously.

"But why not three clubs,

which would conserve all the

bidding space we would need to

bid the slam if my assets

consisted solely of the two

minor queens?"

"Three clubs would not be

forcing," replied my friend

firmly.

Further discussions on a later

occasion revealed more

sequences where we were not at

one. The most significant was

the forcing quality of a reverse

after a response at the one level.

In the early days, all the

leading Acol players insisted

that a sequence such as

Q	K	A	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875

showed a hand that was better

than a minimum, but non-for-

cing.

There are still leading English

writers who cling to this liberal

concept of the reverse. But most

modern players on both sides of

the Atlantic now treat a reverse

as forcing for one round.

Here is a hand which poses

an almost impossible rebid

problem for those who treat a

reverse as non-forcing.

Q	K	A	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875

As West, you open a club and

East responds a heart. There are

several objections to a rebid of

three clubs, which would

undoubtedly be the selection of

the straightforward school.

There are many hands where

three clubs would give East a

headache. Here are three

examples:

Q	K	A	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875

A. Four hearts is an excellent

contract, but East would have

no excuse to bid again over

three clubs.

B. Everyone would rebid

three trumps, which on a

spade lead would succeed only

when the clubs behaved, and

with a generous slice of luck

with the spade suit. Meanwhile

either four hearts or five clubs

are laydown, and six clubs is a

far better proposition than three

trumps.

C. While a rebid of three

hearts, the only "natural"

alternative to three clubs, would

work on A and B, it would

misfire badly on C, where East

has only four moderate hearts

in a fair hand.

The modern treatment of the

West hand would be a reverse

into two diamonds, which

would lead to the right contract

with each of the examples we

have examined. These would be

the three sequences.

Q	K	A	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875

East, despite his paucity of

values, can tell that the hand is

fitting well, and has no diffi-

culty selecting the right strain.

Q	K	A	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875

East introduces the fourth suit,

two spades, asking West to

describe his hand. When West

bids three hearts, East can

visualize that Q 9 5 opposite a

singleton will prove inadequate

for three no trumps.

Q	K	A	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	A
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875
AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875	AK875

Here East has a firm spa-

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

MIDDLESEX SEVENS: Richmond, the holders, start the defence of their title against Saracens in Rugby Union's traditional end-of-season festival at Twickenham. Dark horses are Old Kensington, who reached the final stage by putting out Wasps, and Chesham; the guest sides are Harlequin's and Brighthelm. The first match kicks off at 12.40pm and there are highlights on Rugby Special, BBC2, 10.30-11.30pm.

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP: Today's final, between Wigan and Widnes, means a change in the BBC Television commentary team since Alex Murphy, who would normally be assisting Ray French in covering the match, has a more direct involvement as the Wigan coach. With Widnes likely to prove tough opposition, he may have his work cut out exhorting his team to victory. The whole match is being televised live from Wembley, BBC1, from 2.40pm.

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST: Luxembourg plays host to the 19th competing nations; the British entry is "Love Games", written by Paul Curtis and Graham Sacher and sung by Sade and the Devotions; and Terry Wogan will be on hand as usual to strike a note of genial scepticism. BBC1, 8-10.30pm.

THE MORTE D'ARTHUR: John Barton, associate director of the Royal Shakespeare Company for 24 years, makes his first appearance as a television actor playing Sir Thomas Malory in his own adaptation of Malory's epic about King Arthur. Jeremy Brett plays Arthur, Barbara Kellerman is Guinevere and the director is Gillian Lynne, choreographer of the stage musical *Cats* and the film *Yentl*. BBC2, 8-9.25pm.

HARRY S. TRUMAN: Like his British contemporary, Clement Attlee, Truman was an underrated statesman whose reputation stands higher now than during his term of office. President of the United States from 1945 to 1952, Truman was born in May 1884 and to mark the centenary there are two programmes today: an assessment of his life and work by the American scholar Edmund Wright (Radio 3, 8.35-9.55pm) and *The Buck Stops Here* - the slogan Truman had on his White House desk - with contributions from his daughter Margaret, Alistair Cooke, Alger Hiss, and Roy Jenkins, who is writing a biography (Radio 4, 10.15-11.00pm).

Tomorrow

MAY MADNESS: Two days of Bank Holiday entertainment at the Barbican Centre. In the cinema an hour of cartoons begins on the hour, every hour, from 1pm on both days, while in the hall Atarah's Band play at 3pm both days. The Royal Shakespeare Company gives a preview of *A Comedy of Errors* and a performance of *Life's a Dream* in the two theatres tomorrow. There is also music, exhibitions and restaurants. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (038 8891 / 628 8795).



Lively legend: The epic tale of King Arthur (see Today)



Buck stopper: Harry S. Truman in an unlikely double act with Lauren Bacall in 1945, and in 1967 (see Today)

SAN MARINO GRAND PRIX: Derek Warwick's fine performance in Zolder last week where he was only 42 seconds behind the winner, Michele Alboreto, has put him in second place in the motor-racing world drivers' championship, and today he has another opportunity to strengthen his challenge for Nelson Piquet's title. There is live television coverage of the race on Sunday Grandstand, BBC2, from 2pm and highlights, BBC1, 11.05-11.40.

ERIK SATIE: When the young Satie came into a legacy, one of his purchases was 12 identical grey velvet suits; after his death from drink 30 years later, the suits were among his few possessions. Such eccentricity, together with his small output, have led him to be taken less seriously as a composer than he deserves. But according to John Cage, he has been an important influence on twentieth-century music. This assessment of Satie is presented by David Wheeler and includes the views of composers, musicians and critics. Radio 3, 5.15-6.15pm.

THE SUPERMILERS: Thirty years ago today Roger (now Sir Roger) Bannister became the first man to run a mile in under four minutes. Since then 10 athletes have gone even faster over the distance, including Herb Elliott, John Landy, Peter Snell, Filbert Bay, Derek Ibbotson, Steve Ovett and the current world-record holder, Sebastian Coe. This documentary recalls the great races and looks at the personalities and careers of the athletes involved. Channel 4, 10.15-11.30pm.

TO THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH PRECINCT: He was born Salvatore Lombino in the Italian area of Harlem in New York, and as Evan Hunter he wrote the book *Blackboard Jungle* which in its film version, launched Bill Haley and the Comets and the era of rock 'n' roll. But he is even better known as Ed McBain, prolific writer of police thrillers set in the 87th Precinct. In this profile, Hunter/McBain returns to his New York roots and talks about his latest book, which is based on the Lizzie Borden axe murders. *The South Bank Show*, all TV regions, 10.15-11.30pm.

Monday

THE WINNERS: For Bank Holiday Monday, BBC1 is repeating five programmes which between them collected 13 of this year's British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards. Four are comedy shows. *Hi-De-Hi!* (7.30-8pm), *The Two Ronnies* (8-8.50pm), *Three of a Kind*

(8.50-9.25pm) and *Carrot's Lip* (10.45-11.25pm); the other is Alan Bennett's play, *An Englishman Abroad* (9.40-10.45pm), based on the curious friendship between the spy Guy Burgess and the actress Coral Browne.

MARATHON: With the London Marathon taking place on Sunday, this film, written by Cliff Temple and directed by Christopher Miles, traces the history of the event from its origins in ancient Greece to the current vogue for mass participation and follows the gruelling preparations of two participants in the New York Marathon: Bill Glad, an American airline steward, and "Sammy" Green, a doctor's wife from Burnham, near Slough. Channel 4, 8-9pm.

Tuesday

THAMES BARRIER OPENS: At a cost of £450m the barrier is finally ready to protect London from flooding. Today the Queen takes a boat on the Festival Pier, in front of the Royal Festival Hall, from Woolwich, arriving at about 3.30pm. As she presses the button to close the barrier, ferries and private boats will play, and ferries will sound their horns and more than 2,000 balloons will be let off. Public walkways on the south and north banks are open, but best views are from the Newham (north) side.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA: Ken Hill directs his own adaptation of the classic melodramatic novel by Gaston Leroux, set in Paris in the 1890s. This co-production with Newcastle Playhouse has also visited Wolverhampton on its journey south. Toni Palmer heads the cast of a version which has a musical score including half a dozen popular arias and a company of 17, with Peter Straker as the Phantom, Theatre Royal, Stratford East (01-534 0310). Preview today at 8pm, opens Wed at 7.30pm. Until June 9, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

WEST SIDE STORY: London revival of the Leonard Bernstein-Stephen Sondheim musical. See page 16.

Wednesday

HENRY LAMB: Henry Lamb is probably best remembered for his powerful portrait in the Tate of Vyron Strachey, but he had several other strings to his bow. Born in Australia but brought up in Manchester, in his early days he was much involved with the Bloomsbury Group. He became a distinguished war artist during the First World War and afterwards

went off in a different direction, largely through the influence of his close friend Stanley Spencer, before declining in his last years into academic respectability. This exhibition in his childhood home covers the whole of his career and invites a long-overdue reevaluation. City Art Gallery, Mosely Street, Manchester (061 236 9422). Until June 16, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

FRED KARNO'S ARMY: World premiere of Tony Staveacre's "music hall play" which uses contemporary songs and sketches, newsworthy and early film of Chaplin to tell the story of comedian Fred Karno, whose troupe of comics, which included Chaplin and Stan Laurel, later developed into *The Crazy Gang*. Chris Harris, Kevin Lloyd, Julie Mack and Linda Polan are directed by John David. Not suitable for children. Bristol Old Vic, Theatre Royal (0272 24388). Opens today at 7.15pm. Until June 2, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs (not this week or May 31) at 3pm, Sat at 4pm.

THE RAMAYANA: Akshara National Classical Theatre of India presents Jalabala Vaidya in Gopal Sharma's English-language version of the great Indian epic tale, written 5,000 years ago and central to Hindu mythology. Originally booked for but not seen at the Royal Shakespeare Company's 1970 World Theatre season, this production has since been seen and acclaimed worldwide. Sadler's Wells (278 8918). Opens today at 7.30pm; until May 12, Wed-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Thurs at 10.30am.

UEFA CUP FINAL: Tottenham Hotspur have the chance to redeem something from a generally disappointing season that has led to the departure of their manager, Keith Burkinshaw, when they take on Anderlecht of Belgium in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final in Brussels. *Anderlecht put out Nottingham Forest* in the semi-final. Highlights on Sportsnight, BBC1, 9.55pm.

DIAGHILEV AUCTION: The most important sale of costumes, designs and other material associated with Diaghilev's *Ballets Russes* takes place at Sotheby's today. It is Diaghilev's own collection, which was acquired by Serge Lifar, his premier danseur and intimate friend, after his death. The collection was exhibited in March at the Royal Festival Hall and includes the costumes designed by Picasso for *Massine in Parade*. Debussy's 1912 manuscript of *Jeux*, Diaghilev's death mask and a portrait of Liza painted by Picasso in 1925. Sotheby's 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080), at 10.30am and 2.30pm.

DIPLOMA WATERCOLOURS: The New Society of Painters in Water Colour was founded in 1832 and in 1883 became the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours - a name that can still be read around the frieze of 195 Piccadilly, its grand building opposite the Royal Academy. It has now retired to share a home with the Federation of British Artists, and Christie's sell its complete collection of diploma drawings (which survived the bomb raid on the building in the Second World War). The turn-of-the-century watercolours by artists such as Yeend King, Clifford and Margaretson are particularly fine. Christie's 8, King Street, London W1 (839 9060), at 11am.

TWO DIRECTORS: Channel 4's *Visions* series returns with a documentary about two of the very few British women film directors, Wendy Toye and Sally Potter. Their work has been in entirely different areas - Toye for the more mainstream cinema and Potter (whose first feature, *Gold Diggers*, has just opened in London) on the experimental fringe; yet their conversation reveals surprising parallels. Channel 4, 11.15pm-12.15am.

Thursday

REGINALD HALLWARD: An almost forgotten illustrator, painter and stained-glass artist who apparently lent his surname to the painter of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (though he seems to have had little else in common), Hallward lived from 1858 to 1943, but enjoyed his greatest reputation during the 1890s and 1900s. Even today, his name is known to art historians and private press editions will be surprised at the variety of works in other media which have been drawn from this show from the family collections. The paintings in particular mostly date from the 1890s, when he had retired to Wales, and have seldom if ever been exhibited. The stained-glass designs are also strong and distinctive. Christopher Wood Gallery, 15 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (225 9141). Until May 28, Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

RUE CASES NEGRES: Euzhan Palcy's first film has already won six important prizes including Best First Film at the Venice Film Festival and the Cannes prize for Best First Film. Adapted from Joseph Zobel's novel, the film describes the lives of black sugar-plantation workers in 1930s Martinique, seen through the eyes of an 11-year-old orphan. Carré, The Chelsea Cinema (351 3742).

BLACK BALL GAME: Don Webb's play about the insecure world of sales representatives and recruitment advisors is directed by Roger Smith, and stars Michael Medwin, Carol Drinkwater, Hugh Quarshie, John Mathikiza, Lee Walker, Lyric Theatre, Hammer Smith (741 2311). Previews today, Fri May 12 at 7.45pm, Opens May 14 at 7pm. Until June 23, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

PYGMALION: Ray Cooney directs a revival of George Bernard Shaw's best known comedy, with Peter O'Toole as Professor Higgins, Jackie Smith-Wood as Eliza, Jack Watling as Colonel Pickering, John Thaw as Alfred Doolittle, plus Joyce Carey, Barbara Murray, Lally Bowers, Timothy Ackroyd and Amanda Prior. Shaftesbury (836 6599/4255). Previews today at 8pm, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm, Opens May 15 at 7pm. Until July 7.

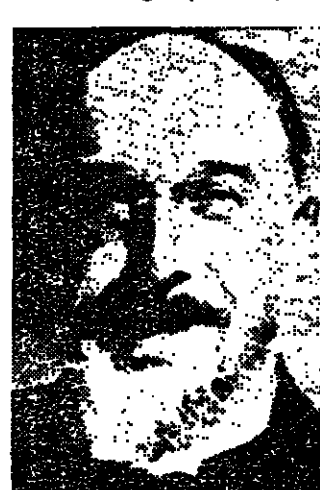
MAHLER MANUSCRIPT: A hitherto unknown manuscript of Mahler's First Symphony in D Major ("The Titan") is to be auctioned at Sotheby's today, an extraordinary rarity estimated to fetch around £150,000. It dates from the 1890s and has 21 pages in Mahler's own hand. The sale of music, books and manuscripts also includes manuscripts of 10 of Mahler's songs, and Wagner's draft of "Siegfried's Death", later to become the fourth opera of his Ring cycle. Sotheby's 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080), at 11am.

Friday

AGAINST ALL ODDS: Jane Greer played the irresistible woman loved by two men in the first screen adaptation of Daniel Mann's novel *Out of the Past*, made in 1947, in Taylor Hackford's new version she plays the girl's mother, leaving Rachel Ward to entice Jeff Bridges and James Woods. The triangle is set against a background of power manipulation in Mexico and California. Cert 15, Classic Oxford Arch (723 2011/2); Warner West End (439 0791) and throughout London.

CROSS CREEK: The story of how Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings went to Cross Creek, Florida, and wrote the Pulitzer-prize-winning book *The Yearling* is recounted in Martin Ritt's film. With Mary Steenburgen, Cert U. ABC Bayswater (229 4149); Classic Chelsea (352 5089); Classic Haymarket (638 1527); Classic Tottenham Court Road (638 6148).

SECRET PLACES: Zelda Barron's film follows the fortunes of Laura, a German girl sent to an English boarding school during the Second World War. With Marie-Thérèse Rein, Tara MacGowan, Claudine Auger, Jenny Agutter. Cert 15. Classic Haymarket (638 1527); Classic Oxford Street (638 0310); Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177/8402); Odeon Kensington (602 6644).



Eccentric reputation: Composer Erik Satie (see Tomorrow)

Country Diary

Oil pressure on a quiet coastland



Through road: Corfe Castle, scene of weekend traffic jams

Helen Brotherton has an appropriate as well as spectacular view from her drawing room window. She is the chairman of the Wessex region of the National Trust and, as she looks out across Poole harbour, she can keep a protective eye on some of the trust's most cherished properties, including Brownsea Island, and, beyond it, the heathland of Purbeck.

It is a time for vigilance. Miss Brotherton, like many other local people, fears that perhaps the most unspoilt stretch of coast in southern England is coming under potentially disastrous pressures for development.

The warning signal was given some months ago when British Petroleum drilled an exploratory well in the middle of Poole Bay. Everyone has known all along that there is oil in the area - you only have to see the shale on the beaches - and the Wych Farm donkey has been nodding away profitably for years.

But now British Gas is under government orders to sell its half share in Wych Farm, the largest and most productive onshore oilfield in Britain, to a consortium of five smaller oil companies which, local people feel, may want to expand the whole enterprise. Worse still, BP has recently bought Furzey Island, next door to Brownsea, from Algy Cliff, owner of the *Spectator* magazine and, as the owner of Cliff Oil, an oil man in his own right.

Miss Brotherton concedes that the big oil companies have a good environmental record, and that Poole, a fairly progressive industrial town, might enjoy the prospect of becoming the Aberdeen of the south, even if the same could not be said of its grand neighbour, Bournemouth. But she fears that the infrastructure needed to support any large-scale development would inevitably change the whole character of the surrounding countryside; such a prospect is anathema to many local people.

Already, heavy oil-related traffic has damaged Purbeck's narrow roads and, on the Arne Peninsula, where the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds owns a large sanctuary, English China Clays has been allowed to excavate. Even if BP's planned well on Furzey proves to be dry, Miss Brotherton believes that there will be alternative proposals for hotels and holiday homes.

The Poole-Bournemouth coastline occupies only a small corner of the north-eastern shore of the harbour. The rest is amazingly untouched, and the ferry which takes you from the yacht clubs and

expensive villas of Sandbanks across the channel that connects the harbour with the bay, transports you into a different world.

The Isle of Purbeck is not of course a real island, but its special character is protected by a range of hills on two sides, and the sea on the other two. From Studland to Lulworth, the only sizable habitation on the coast is the nicely old-fashioned resort of Swanage. Much of the area surrounding Lulworth has been out of bounds to the public for many years because the Army uses it as a firing range; as in places such as Dartmoor, this has proved a godsend for wildlife conservation.



Donkey work: The on-shore oilfield of Wych Farm

Last year, the National Trust received a magnificent gift of 8,000 acres of heathland and small farms from the Banks family, whose ancestors defended Corfe Castle from Cromwell in the Civil War. The castle guards the only gap in the hills, and is one of the most spectacular ruins in Britain.

Purbeck is inevitably a tourist honey-pot in the summer, and at weekends the road through the village of Corfe becomes one huge traffic jam. The trust is now girding itself for an imminent public inquiry into a new by-pass. It is pressing for a route to the east of the village, running partly through a tunnel. But that is much the most expensive of six possibilities, and the county council says reluctantly that it cannot afford to put it into effect without government aid.

Miss Brotherton maintains that since Purbeck is genuinely part of the national heritage - a phrase, incidentally, that is much abused - the Government should come to its help.

John Young

At Home/Photography

A mixed bag of lenses that guarantees new angles

Photographers who want to make the most of their cameras should investigate the range of different lenses available. In addition to magnifying or altering the perspective on a subject, long and short focal-length lenses can be used to creative effect through the way they influence depth of field.

Owning a 35mm SLR camera without having a choice of lenses to hand is like having strawberries without cream. The ability of the SLR to accept interchangeable lenses, together with its compact size and through-the-lens viewing and exposure metering, has made this format the most popular in photography today.

Choosing lenses of a different focal length enables a photographer to alter the apparent perspective in a picture by changing the scale of the elements relative to one another and the overall angle of view without moving position.

The shorter the focal length of a lens the nearer its point of "infinity" and hence the greater the depth of field - the zone of sharp definition in front and behind the main subject being photographed.

Wide-angle (short-focal-length) lenses tend to produce pictures with overall sharp definition; with telephoto lenses, while the main subject is in focus, most of the rest of the picture will be blurred.

Depth of field is also influenced by the aperture setting chosen for a particular exposure. The wider the aperture, the shallower will be the depth of field. This can be used to creative effect in some cases but presents considerable drawbacks in others, such as when the light level is low.



Useful as wide-angle and telephoto lenses are, it would be unwise to consign the so-called 50mm standard lens to the dustbin. The standard lens represents the normal human

angle of vision of 45 degrees and forces the photographer to take a disciplined approach to composition, seeking out angles and points of view corresponding to normal vision.

I am often pleasantly surprised looking back at pictures taken when all I possessed was a basic camera and standard lens, and wonder how I ever managed.

You should beware as a first-time buyer of the enthusiastic sales assistant who tries to persuade you not to purchase a standard lens with your camera body but to supplement this with, say, a 28-80mm zoom lens - "because, sir, it covers the standard lens focal length anyway". Do not fall for this patter.

A zoom lens, as its name

Sharpshooter: Times photographer Brian Harris took this picture of Malik Atta, a Pakistani test-pepper, using a 600mm lens. The aperture was set wide open in order to get the fastest possible shutter speed, which froze the motion of horse and rider. The result of the very shallow depth of field created by using a telephoto lens and a wide aperture was a photograph in which the subject is picked out cleanly against a hazy background

implies, allows a selection of different focal lengths with one lens. This ability to choose any focal length between 28mm and 80mm offers quick and easy alteration to the perspective and framing of a picture.

The zoom lens comes into its own among crowds, fetes and other festivals. Crowd scenes can be shot on the wide-angle setting and the lens can then also be used to zoom in instantly for any candid shot which takes your fancy. This is far more convenient than fumbling around in the crush trying to fit another lens on to your camera.

An ideal addition to your

equipment would be an 80-200mm medium telephoto zoom on a separate camera body, or carried in a pocket. That way you can cover most eventualities.

But zoom lenses have their drawbacks. They are necessarily complex in construction, especially their glass components, making them heavy and bulky. They also rarely provide a maximum aperture wider than f4.

Thus, while ideal for some outdoor uses, they are not easy to use in dim conditions such as interiors. First, their bulk and weight makes them difficult to hand-hold steadily, at slow shutter speeds and, secondly, an aperture of f4 provides a dim image which is hard to focus. (It is here that once again either a standard lens or a fixed focal length wide-angle lens proves invaluable.)

Add to these disadvantages the fact that many zoom lenses do not focus very close, and it is easy to imagine the problems thrown up in the confines of a living room.

Great strides have been made by the lens manufacturers - but the photographer who wants to cover all eventualities still cannot do without a combination of zoom and fixed focal length lenses among his equipment.

Roy Cuckow

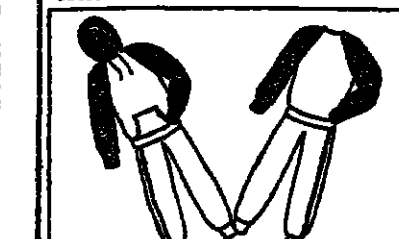
There are many makes of lenses on the market. Camera manufacturers' lenses are much more expensive than those made by independent companies. Good brand names include Vivitar, Kiron, Tokina, Sigma, Soligor, Tamron and Cimko, while the reputation of Sun lenses is growing. Expect to pay between £100 and £150 for a good 28mm-80mm zoom lens and between £70 and £130 for an 80mm-200mm. A 24mm fixed focal length lens will cost upwards of £60, depending on the maximum aperture available.

THE TIMES LEISURE AND TRACK SUIT OFFER

THE growing legions of Keep Fit enthusiasts have brought about an increasing demand for new, comfortable sports and leisure wear.

WE have selected two high quality garments that have been designed for The Times readers by Mr President, the originators of the classic American leisure suits. Both styles have traditional "sweatshirt" grey body and trouser stripe in navy blue. The track suit has a navy blue hood with draw-strings, stretch-knit cuffs and waist-band and a front patch pocket that will double as a hand warmer. The leisure suit has deep stretch-knit crew neck, cuffs and waistband - both tops have the title of THE TIMES newspaper printed in soft navy blue flock on the left-hand breast.

THE trousers are the same for both outfits, grey body with navy blue stripe, matching waist and elasticated ankles. All garments are made of 50% cotton, 50% crelana acrylic and are fully machine washable. The inside surfaces have a soft fleecy lining that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer.



The wide range of slacks and suit neck people and are as follows: Tops - Small (34in-36in), Medium (38in-40in), Large (42in-44in), (Crew neck only) Ex. Large (46in-48in). Trousers - Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.



Prices: Leisure Suit with Crew Neck (including trousers) - £18.95. Track Suit With Hood (including Trousers) - £22.95. Please note: The Times Leisure Suit/Track Suit(s) are in limited quantities (indicate size of each size).

	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	EX. LARGE
Leisure Suit Top-Crew Neck				
Track Suit Top-Hood				
Trousers				
Leisure Suit-£18.95				
Track Suit-£22.95				

Include Cheque/P.O. for 5% trade, payable to Times Leisure/Track Suit Offer, Send to: Times Leisure/Track Suit Offer, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent, DA5 1BL. If you are not satisfied we will refund your money without question. This offer can only be despatched to customers in the U.K. The Times Leisure and Track Suit Offer, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent, DA5 1BL. Tel: Crayford 33316 for enquiries only.

THE ARTS

Theatre
Fire down belowSomething's Burning
Lyric Studio
Hammersmith

Sitting on a rough platform in front of three chipboard walls, a man describes his hobby to an enthusiastically attentive girl. He is describing how to make bombs out of sugar and weed-kills. He does it for the sheer fun of the thing. Towards the end of the evening, he receives another visitor who is interested in blowing up Stoke Newington police station.

That is an extreme instance of the danger smouldering away through this Youth Theatre show; but neither here nor at any other point is there any sense that the details have been exaggerated for theatrical effect. *Something's Burning* is an exercise in autobiographical improvisation. Performed by a young company of 14, all playing under their own names, it has been evolved from their own experiences and opinions and then scripted by Peter Speyer.

It consists of a series of detached episodes, each centering on one character or small group, linked together by their continuity as a street gang.

Racially mixed, they transmit no trace of racial tension. What holds them together is the shared sense of aggression and frustration. Unemployed or doing menial jobs, they see society as a conspiracy to keep them down at the bottom of the heap. And the title is a fair summary of their combined statements.

After the opening bomb lesson, three street prowlers drift on to demand money with menaces from the house. We then move on to squabbles over cash in a space invaders arcade.

A happy scene turns into a rapid exodus with news that the meat wagon has been sighted.

Cut to the Labour exchange where the boys are busy erasing the computer records that are keeping them out of work. Various word-scenes follow: a new garage boss throws his weight about at the expense of a mechanic.

Two waitresses go into hilarious pantomime on the theme of sexual harassment for the benefit of a friend who makes a living from delivering stripograms. Mid-way through the show comes a tranquil riverside scene for two boys and a girl, broken up when the girl can no longer stand the tedium of fishing.

It is not all negative. Fiona, the stripogramme artist, gets some fun out of the job. And Anthony, a street dancer, halts everything else on stage when he goes into sinuous "body popping" routines, consisting of snake-like gyrations and neck-breaking dives into the concrete, though even he is always apt to be moved on by the men on the beat ("Why can't you dance at home?").

Anger apart, what the company displays is a strong sense of street credibility, transferred in part from the outside world to the stage, and orchestrated in Lucy Parker's production into a tightly-controlled show, combining sketches, dance, rhythmic chorus work, and social debate, which allows each personality to remain itself and come through with maximum force.

To some spectators, the result may seem no more than a harmless safety valve; but I think there is more than that to be learnt from it.

Irving Wardle

Ballet

Romeo and Juliet
Covent Garden

Ashley Page's Romeo, seen for the first time on Wednesday at Covent Garden, has a lean and hungry look. It is fitting, therefore, that he is at his best in the role when most dangerous: chasing Tybalt to avenge Mercutio's death, hurling himself in repentance at Lady Capulet's feet, vaulting precipitately on to Juliet's supposed tomb after killing Paris.

He calls to mind, quite often, the reckless, headstrong prowler of the Verona streets that Christopher Gable used to present in the production's early days. At this first attempt, Page was surrounded by an uneven group of players in the other solo parts. Stephen Jeffries, a Mercutio of mordant wit and, at his death, frightening anger, together with the high-spirited, strong-hearted Benvenuto of Stephen Sheriff, provided the most sympathetic and responsive performances, to the scenes of the three rowdy friends becoming particularly rewarding.

None of the present Tybalts carries the authority and animal power that the role used to have, but within its comparatively lightweight manner

Robert Jude's reading is intelligently devised and clearly acted: probably the best thing he does. I wish, however, that Ross MacGibbon, as Paris, just once in a while would forget to be such a nice, reasonable, pleasant, smiling chap and surprise us with some new insight into what is potentially a more complex and interesting character. Wendy Ellis makes a vivacious Juliet, though tending to petulance in the last act. Looking at Derek Rencher's Capulet, there is no doubt which parent this child took after.

This is the production's twentieth year, and I still live in hope that one day I shall find someone to explain why it is that the nurse who identified Romeo for her charge cannot recognize him, even without his mask, when carrying Juliet's letter the next morning. Am I wrong to expect logic in a ballet?

John Percival

● The Third International Hans Swarowsky Conducting Competition is to be held in Vienna from June 3 to 15, coinciding with the Vienna Festival. The value of the first prize is 75,000 Austrian Schillings.

Holly Hill on the new Sondheim musical
Flashes of irony at the point of creationSunday in the Park with George
Booth Theatre, New York

For *Sunday in the Park with George* the composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim and the author-director James Lapine have dared to walk an artistic plank. They stride out and, instead of falling into the sea, arrive at an enchanted isle.

Entry to the isle is not easy, and the voyage not recommended as light entertainment. A concept musical inspired by Georges Seurat's monumental painting *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, the work first involves the eye and ear and makes considerable demands on the mind before reaching an emotional peak. How astonished and moved Seurat, dead at 31 with none of his masterpieces sold, might be to see his technique of pointillism realized in the theatre. Point by point, the show's elements blend into a complex beauty.

At the beginning, one sees a huge white canvas. From this canvas, George (Mandy Patinkin) says "A challenge: bring order to the whole through design, composition, balance, light and harmony". As he speaks, the canvas rises to reveal a white stage which is gradually transformed into La Grande Jatte. Through the scenic wizardry of Tony Straiges and lighting of Richard Nelson, a lake, trees and one-dimensional figures and props based upon the painting appear. George poses his model-mistress Dot (Bernadette Peters) and begins work.

In the first act George works from life on La Grande Jatte and, seen behind a scrim representing the unfinished painting, fills in the canvas in his studio. The supporting characters, figures in the painting, are cleverly conceived and interrelated. Even two cutouts dog inspire a song as George sketches them and imagines their lives in playful lyrics.

There is fun in the lyrics and scenic effects, particularly in Act II, which takes place a century later and features George's great-grandson by Dot and his grandmother (played by Patinkin and Peters, who are in splendid voice and character throughout).

At a museum gala, George II unveils his "chromoloom number 7". Mixed with some spectacular laser flashes and projections upon the white sculpture is satire about the modern art world. When the chromoloom blows its fuses George observes "No electricity, no art".

The irony of pointillism now meaning that George has to hustle for commissions and publicity is underscored in sight and song ("Dot by dot/Building up the image"). When he goes to La Grande Jatte to create another chromoloom, he finds it overrun by ugly modern buildings.

Fun and satire give the musical dimension and variety, but its recurring theme is the urgent process of creating a work of art. The author and composer, nothing new on the subject; the originality of *Sunday in the Park* is in how its creators theatricalize their theme. Appropriating some techniques from performance art, the characters do not just talk and sing about creating, but people a painting which is seen in fragments and assembled as a majestic whole in the finales of both acts.

The music, which begins on a dissonant chord and has a hammering quality representing Seurat's points of paint, only gradually becomes more harmonic and, like the painting, builds its motifs to haunting effect. When George II meets the ghost of Dot and La Grande Jatte's other figures in Act II, the island becomes as it was when Seurat captured its serene levelness. George's "bring order to the whole" is recalled, as well as Dot's reflection on the love he put into his work, and the company sings a reprise of the title song, ending with the words "on an ordinary Sunday".

Far from ordinary, scenic elements.



Mandy Patinkin and Bernadette Peters: build-up towards harmony

music and the integrity of the leading characters in *Sunday in the Park* create an extraordinary vision of art as an expression of grandeur and of love in their most lasting form.

Radio

An experiment with no resolution

Stephen Dunstone's play, *Who is Sylvia?* (Radio 3, April 29, director, John Tildeman) was joint winner of the *Radio Times* 1983 play competition with Christopher Russell's *Swimmer*, which I discussed in this column on April 7. It confirms what its partner then gave reason to hope: that this competition would produce at least two extremely imaginative and able pieces of writing for radio. It doesn't always happen in competitions, but here the substantial prize money has gone to two most interesting recipients.

Swimmer was a play which would have been difficult to realize in any medium, but radio: with *Who is Sylvia?* it would have been impossible. It took place partly between two scientists (Michael Aldridge and Martin Jarvis) performing laboratory experiments on the cockroaches, partly among the cockroaches themselves, and at one level it might be seen as an attack on the infliction of gratuitous suffering on experimental animals. At that level, however, you might also be excused for dismissing the

whole play as a pretty shameless propaganda exercise, depending on its effect on gross anthropomorphism and caricature.

In fact - and I believe, I hope it was by design - Mr Dunstone did it more subtly than that. By endowing the cockroaches with character, reason, emotion and above all a desperate, hopeless compulsion to understand their fate, he made them the human focus of the play and their appalling predicament a representation of our own.

We first encounter two of them - Henry (Nigel Hawthorne) and Angela (Anna Massie) - exclaiming proudly over their newly hatched family and comparing their own circumstances rather favourably with those of their cockroach neighbours. Then the "cockroaches" begin to take a hand and calamities multiply: disappearance, slow poisoning, blinding and grotesque mutilation became the order of the day.

All this takes place to a muffled background of the glories of Mozart, Beethoven, Mahler and Wagner, which we soon discover are the records

of the experiments play to keep themselves amused during the more tedious moments of laboratory work. But meantime, these experiments are themselves the victims of apparently quite random and meaningless troubles, to them as inexplicable and nearly as distressing as, to the insects, are the hands that reach into their cage and pluck them out. One conclusion emerges, as things are, the cockroaches will never work it out. Nor, we may infer, will the experimenters.

If this kind of play is made for radio, then so is science fiction and even the most prosaic, cliché-ridden scamper round the galaxy can put out little claws of steel and bind you to the loudspeaker. I won't say Charles Chilton's *Space Force* (Radio 2, Wednesday, repeating Mondays; producer, Paul Mayhew Archer) is quite of that order, but it is an exercise in studio direction and at a certain level of inventiveness the whole affair is quite well done, but surely that is sci-fi's minimum requirement. Beyond this, this serial has little to offer: the human characters are two-

dimensional, the aliens more or less hostile - representing yet again some of our own less attractive behaviour writ large - the dialogue owes too much to the "this-here-which-I-have-in-my-hand-is-a-space-gun" school, and the dramatic situations provide only the routine excitement of the average planetary setting. Yet I'm hooked.

An hour and a half of the Radio 4 evening seemed somewhat longer than *The Massachusetts Alternative* (May 2, producer, David Harding) needed to make its main and interesting point: that if you stop confining juvenile offenders in brutalizing institutions, you will very likely reduce rates of juvenile crime as a whole. Perhaps it was the chance to link up with New York and include in the discussions some of the American opinions of the "alternative" which turned what might have been a plain and informative documentary, into a slight test of stamina, one requiring all Brian Redhead's splendid qualities as anchor-man.

David Wade

Television

Broken threads

There was Flo, Hilda, Alice, Fanny, and Sally, remembering the time when Britain's bread hung by Lancashire's thread, when two-thirds of the world's cotton goods were made in a cluster of small towns and no one thought it could ever be any different.

Even the weepy climate seemed God-given for the task. People worked in bare feet to keep their balance on the oily floor and weavers, spinners, and carders enjoyed their status in a workforce with a definite aristocracy.

Each of these Lancashire towns tended to supply a different market. India was the biggest. Nearly half the output went there in 1914 when war intervened. Exports became hazardous and the Indians began in a small way to make their own. Later it would become a priority of Indian nationalism to do so.

BBC's *Cotton* Programme, produced by Angela Holdsworth, fourth in its baleful but gripping series *All Our Working Lives*, told the story of the industry's decline last night.

The Lancashire industry had grown up haphazardly, and in boom days thought it knew all there was to know. New machinery was scorned by craftsmen and management, but not by the competitors abroad. Competition really bit in the 1930s.

Once the industry employed nearly a million people. Now it employs 37,000 working warily in a handful of mills. There is still a brisk export trade in second-hand machinery, and some new businesses have moved into a few of the mills, "just bits and pieces," a cotton worker recalled, "not an industry".

Employers and employees remembered without rancour, the latter reflecting not so much militancy as that more common quality of the working-class, stoicism. They conveyed, even at a distance of many years, the conviction that it shouldn't have become so. It is a feeling that, in hapless industrial times, many more will understand today.

Dennis Hackett

WEEKEND CHOICE

John Barton's role as Sir Thomas Malory is a virtuoso performance in tonight's dramatization of the Arthurian legend *The Morte D'Arthur* (BBC2 8.00pm). Mr Barton is responsible for the translation of the fifteenth century work, a task he began 20 years ago when he edited the final section of Malory's saga for an LP.

Barton as Malory is seen in his Newgate Prison cell narrating the epic tales with Jeremy Brett playing in a noble manner the cuckolded King Arthur, Barbara Kellerman, a smouldering and sensual Queen Guenevere, and David Robb outwashed Errol Flynn as the almost indestructible Sir

Lancelot. A splendid adaptation masterfully devised and directed by Gillian Lynne.

The prolific crime writer Ed McBain is the subject of this week's edition of *The South Bank Show* (ITV 10.30pm tomorrow). Filmed on his own patch in and around New York's Ninth Precinct, he talks frankly to Melvyn Bragg about his Italian Harlem childhood and about his novels, which are also written under the name Evan Hunter - the name that first reached the public consciousness with *Blackboard Jungle* in 1954. McBain proves to be as articulate as the characters in his stories and of a cheerful disposition.

Peter Dear

Opera

The Magic Flute
Coliseum

In spite of Anna Neagle's gala interval appeal for the humanitarian work of the Ockendon Venture, and in spite of the magic of the solo flute itself and of Nancy Coolidge's ringing celeste, there is no, alas, little enchantment to be found in English National Opera's *Magic Flute*.

Anthony Besch never did place that quality very high; and even though he returned to supervise things this time round, his staging, with its willing palms, stilted action and dialogue, and perilous scene changes, can hardly be called a revival.

What magic there is, with one exception, is not to be found in the new arrivals to the cast either. Rowland Sidwell is a strong but bottom-heavy tenor; his rather plain Timamo is as stolid and indiscriminating as Wyn Davies's conducting. Together they successfully rode roughshod over both recitative

and silence in the awesome questions and answers of the Speaker scene.

The one exception, however, is Jane Eaglen, making a welcome return after her debut in *Pastorale*, and as the First Lady, bringing more truly Mozartian style and sensibility to the stage than most of the others put together.

Valerie Masterson is just at that point where maturity and dignity of vocal and stage technique are poised delicately with a still deceptive youthfulness of voice and physique. The result is a Famina at once vulnerable and serene, and an "Ach, ich fühl's" of meticulous and affecting art.

Alan Opie's Papageno and Marilyn Hill Sanjhi's Papagena have become, for every point of view, a rather heavy-weight pair. More bumptious, more charming than ever, they encourage no more faith in the Natural Man than Sean Rea's plodding Sarastro engenders in the greater wisdom.

Hilary Finch

Law Report May 5 1984 Court of Appeal

Test of diminished responsibility

Regina v Seers
Before Lord Justice Griffiths, Mr Justice Stocker and Sir John Thompson

[Judgment delivered May 4]

Where, on a charge of murder, a defendant pleaded diminished responsibility occasioned by a depressive illness, it was appropriate to direct the jury that only partial or borderline insanity amounted to diminished responsibility.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) so held in a reserved judgment, allowing an appeal by Mr John Samuel Seers against his conviction at Stafford Crown Court (Mr Justice Drake and a jury) on June 18, 1982, of the murder of his estranged wife, and substituting a conviction of manslaughter and a sentence of eight years' imprisonment.

Mr Clive Taylor, QC and Mr John West, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellant, Mr Patrick Bennett QC and Mr William Andrew-Jones for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS said that evidence had been given at the trial that the appellant was suffering from chronic depressive depression which amounted to a

mental illness properly characterized as an abnormality of the mind of such a degree as substantially to impair his responsibility at the time of the killing. The prosecution had accepted that he was suffering from such depression but disputed its severity.

The trial judge, no doubt basing himself on a passage in *R v Byrne* (1960) 2 QB 396, had directed the jury that the test to be applied to determine whether the appellant was suffering from diminished responsibility was whether he could be described in popular language as partially insane or on the borderline of insanity.

That was the only test which he had propounded and he had repeated it in various passages of his summing-up, in the last of which the appellant had argued, the judge had virtually withdrawn the defence of diminished responsibility from the jury by pointing out that both the doctors called had agreed that the appellant was nowhere near the borderline of insanity.

It had been submitted for the appellant that the jury should have been directed to consider whether his ability to control his hostility towards his wife had been substantially impaired by a depressive illness, and that this was not an

appropriate case to introduce the concept of partial or borderline insanity at all; still less was it appropriate to introduce the degree of impairment in an appropriate case.

In *R v Byrne* (1961) AC 496, 507-8 the Privy Council had considered the words of Lord Parker in *R v Byrne*, at p 403, and approved his interpretation of abnormality of mind and "mental responsibility" in section 2 of the Homicide Act 1957, but had said that *Byrne's* case was not to be taken to have laid down that in every case the jury must necessarily be directed that the test was always to be the borderline of insanity.

If insanity were to be taken into consideration the word should be used in its broad popular sense. The direction ought always to be related to the evidence, and there might be cases where the words "borderline" and "insanity" might not be helpful. In *Byrne's* case, the evidence had justified directing the jury to determine the degree of impairment of mental responsibility by the partial insanity test.

However, it was not a legitimate method of construing an Act of Parliament to substitute for the words of the Act an entirely different phrase and to say that it was to apply in all circumstances. That had not been the court's

intention in *Byrne's* case where the phrase had been used as one way of assisting the jury to determine the degree of impairment in an appropriate case.

In cases such as the present, however, dealing with a depressive illness, it was not appropriate to direct a jury solely in terms of partial or borderline insanity. Indeed it was doubtful whether it was a helpful test at all in such a case.

The jury would have been unlikely, however severely depressed they might have thought the appellant was and whatever effect they thought that might have had on his mental responsibility, to have considered him to be partially insane or on the border of insanity.

That being the case they had been bound in the light of the judge's direction to find that the defence of diminished responsibility failed. Had the jury been directed in accordance with *R v Byrne*, but without the inappropriate test of partial or borderline insanity, the jury would on the evidence have been justified in returning a verdict of manslaughter, and the appeal would accordingly be allowed to that extent.

Solicitors: Director of Public Prosecutions.

Rebutting the presumption of juvenile incapacity

McC v Ruckelshaus
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann

[Judgment delivered May 3]

To rebut the presumption that a child under the age of 14 was *doli incapax*, that is, incapable of forming a criminal intent, the prosecution had to satisfy the justices so that they were sure that the child knew that what she was doing was seriously wrong.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing the appeal of a girl aged 13 at the time of the offence, against conviction at the Camberwell Green Juvenile Court for assault occasioning actual bodily harm to another juvenile contrary to section 47 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861.

Mr Bruce Speller for the appellant

defendant, Miss Linda Strudwick for the respondent prosecutor.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that the evidence was that the defendant and another girl had had a discussion with the victim in a garden where they had been followed by the victim home and knocked at the door. The door was opened and the defendant hit the victim with a milk bottle which broke and stabbed her with part of it.

The defendant and the other girl ran away. They saw police officers from whom they ran and hid in a garden where they were apprehended. The defendant made a coherent statement to the police which accurately reflected the victim's account of the events.

Before the justices the defendant contended that there was insufficient evidence to rebut the presumption of *doli incapax*. The

justices found that there was "strong and pregnant" evidence for the following reasons:

1. The defendant's statement under caution made shortly afterwards. 2. The content of her statement revealed the defendant's abilities to be those of the average 13 year old. 3. The actions surrounding the attack, particularly the running from the scene. 4. The fact that the defendant ran away from the police.

Mr Speller submitted that the prosecution had to prove that a juvenile knew that her actions were morally wrong for the presumption of *doli incapax* to be rebutted.

His Lordship did not think that necessary if the child knew that what she had done was seriously wrong. What was morally wrong was merely a species of what was seriously wrong. On the evidence the justices were simply justified in

finding that the presumption had been rebutted.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, agreeing, said that if the *mens rea* and the *actus reus* of an offence were proved against a child then she should not be convicted unless the prosecution could show that the child was aware that her act went beyond childish mischievousness.

The court had to get away from old language. In such circumstances there were four elements: first, there was the presumption; second, the prosecution had to rebut it; third, the ordinary criminal burden of proof applied to the prosecution's rebuttal; fourth, the prosecution had to show that the child appreciated what she was doing was seriously wrong.

Solicitors: Peter Egan & Co, Lewisham; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

LITTLETON 928 2252 or 928 5953
ALAN ARMSTRONG AND
SERGEANT MUGRAVES
DANCE
Limited 6 seats, 10 seats, 15 seats, 20 seats, 25 seats, 30 seats, 35 seats, 40 seats, 45 seats, 50 seats, 55 seats, 60 seats, 65 seats, 70 seats, 75 seats, 80 seats, 85 seats, 90 seats, 95 seats, 100 seats, 105 seats, 110 seats, 115 seats, 120 seats, 125 seats, 130 seats, 135 seats, 140 seats, 145 seats, 150 seats, 155 seats, 160 seats, 165 seats, 170 seats, 175 seats, 180 seats, 185 seats, 190 seats, 195 seats, 200 seats, 205 seats, 210 seats, 215 seats, 220 seats, 225 seats, 230 seats, 235 seats, 240 seats, 245 seats, 250 seats, 255 seats, 260 seats, 265 seats, 270 seats, 275 seats, 280 seats, 285 seats, 290 seats, 295 seats, 300 seats, 305 seats, 310 seats, 315 seats, 320 seats, 325 seats, 330 seats, 335 seats, 340 seats, 345 seats, 350 seats, 355 seats, 360 seats, 365 seats, 370 seats, 375 seats, 380 seats, 385 seats, 390 seats, 395 seats, 400 seats, 405 seats, 410 seats, 415 seats, 420 seats, 425 seats, 430 seats, 435 seats, 440 seats, 445 seats, 450 seats, 455 seats, 460 seats, 465 seats, 470 seats, 475 seats, 480 seats, 485 seats, 490 seats, 495 seats, 500 seats, 505 seats, 510 seats, 515 seats, 520 seats, 525 seats, 530 seats, 535 seats, 540 seats, 545 seats, 550 seats, 555 seats, 560 seats, 565 seats, 570 seats, 575 seats, 580 seats, 585 seats, 590 seats, 595 seats, 600 seats, 605 seats, 610 seats, 615 seats, 620 seats, 625 seats, 630 seats, 635 seats, 640 seats, 645 seats, 650 seats, 655 seats, 660 seats, 665 seats, 670 seats, 675 seats, 680 seats, 685 seats, 690 seats, 695 seats, 700 seats, 705 seats, 710 seats, 715 seats, 720 seats, 725 seats, 730 seats, 735 seats, 740 seats, 745 seats, 750 seats, 755 seats, 760 seats, 765 seats, 770 seats, 775 seats, 780 seats, 785 seats, 790 seats, 795 seats, 800 seats, 805 seats, 810 seats, 815 seats, 820 seats, 825 seats, 830 seats, 835 seats, 840 seats, 845 seats, 850 seats, 855 seats, 860 seats, 865 seats, 870 seats, 875 seats, 880 seats, 885 seats, 890 seats, 895 seats, 900 seats, 905 seats, 910 seats, 915 seats, 920 seats, 925 seats, 930 seats, 935 seats, 940 seats, 945 seats, 950 seats, 955 seats, 960 seats, 965 seats, 970 seats, 975 seats, 980 seats, 985 seats, 990 seats, 995 seats, 1000 seats, 1005 seats, 1010 seats, 1015 seats, 1020 seats, 1025 seats, 1030 seats, 1035 seats, 1040 seats, 1045 seats, 1050 seats, 1055 seats, 1060 seats, 1065 seats, 1070 seats, 1075 seats, 1080 seats, 1085 seats, 1090 seats, 1095 seats, 1100 seats, 1105 seats, 1110 seats, 1115 seats, 1120 seats, 1125 seats, 1130 seats, 1135 seats, 1140 seats, 1145 seats, 1150 seats, 1155 seats, 1160 seats, 1165 seats, 1170 seats, 1175 seats, 1180 seats, 1185 seats, 1190 seats, 1195 seats, 1200 seats, 1205 seats, 1210 seats, 1215 seats, 1220 seats, 1225 seats, 1230 seats, 1235 seats, 1240 seats, 1245 seats, 1250 seats, 1255 seats, 1260 seats, 1265 seats, 1270 seats, 1275 seats, 1280 seats, 1285 seats, 1290 seats, 1295 seats, 1300 seats, 1305 seats, 1310 seats, 1315 seats, 1320 seats, 1325 seats, 1330 seats, 1335 seats, 1340 seats, 1345 seats, 1350 seats, 1355 seats, 1360 seats, 1365 seats, 1370 seats, 1375 seats, 1380 seats, 1385 seats, 1390 seats, 1395 seats, 1400 seats, 1405 seats, 1410 seats, 1415 seats, 1420 seats, 1425 seats, 1430 seats, 1435 seats, 1440 seats, 1445 seats, 1450 seats, 1455 seats, 1460 seats, 1465 seats, 1470 seats, 1475 seats, 1480 seats, 1485 seats, 1490 seats, 1495 seats, 1500 seats, 1505 seats, 1510 seats, 1515 seats, 1520 seats, 1525 seats, 1530 seats, 1535 seats, 1540 seats, 1545 seats, 1550 seats, 1555 seats, 1560 seats, 1565 seats, 1570 seats, 1575 seats, 1580 seats, 1585 seats, 1590 seats, 1595 seats, 1600 seats, 1605 seats, 1610 seats, 1615 seats, 1620 seats, 1625 seats, 1630 seats, 1635 seats, 1640 seats, 1645 seats, 1650 seats, 1655 seats, 1660 seats, 1665 seats, 1670 seats, 1675 seats, 1680 seats, 1685 seats, 1690 seats, 1695 seats, 1700 seats, 1705 seats, 1710 seats, 1715 seats, 1720 seats, 1725 seats, 1730 seats, 1735 seats, 1740 seats, 1745 seats, 1750 seats, 1755 seats, 1760 seats, 1765 seats, 1770 seats, 1775 seats, 1780 seats, 1785 seats, 1790 seats, 1795 seats, 1800 seats, 1805 seats, 1810 seats, 1815 seats, 1820 seats, 1825 seats, 1830 seats, 1835 seats, 1840 seats, 1845 seats, 1850 seats, 1855 seats, 1860 seats, 1865 seats, 1870 seats, 1875 seats, 1880 seats, 1885 seats, 1890 seats, 1895 seats, 1900 seats, 1905 seats, 1910 seats, 1915 seats, 1920 seats, 1925 seats, 1930 seats, 1935 seats, 1940 seats,

Nervous selling

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

FT STOCK INDICES	
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	81.02 (81.40)
FIXED INTEREST	85.86 (85.69)
INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY	915.4 (922.8)
GOLD MINES	565.1 (571.4)
ORDINARY DIVIDEND YIELD	4.27% (4.24%)
EARNINGS YIELD	9.89% (9.82%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.29 (12.29)
P.E. RATIO (NIL)	11.82 (11.70)

SHIPPING						
138	127	Ass Brit Ports	258		121	4.7 9.1
139	5	Brit & Com	259	-1	197	2.1 21.1
140	4	Caedonia Inv	260	-10	188	
141	98	Fisher J	116		4.0	13.5 7.1
142	35	Jacobs J. F.	117		3.7	1.1 37.1
143	70	Ocean Trans	118	-2	5.5	7.4 98.1
144	108	P & O 'Dtd'	119		17.9	5.5 12.5

MINES					
16 1/2	11 1/2	Anglo Am Coal	127 1/2	74.0	4.5
150 1/2	9 1/2	Anglo Am Corp	127 1/2	64.4	4.8
89 1/2	5 1/2	Ang Am Gold	136 1/2	58.7	5.4
82 1/2	4 1/2	Anglo Am Inv	128 1/2	33.0	5.1
45	3 1/2	Anglovani	128 1/2	7.0	4.7
48	3 1/2	Do 'A'	128 1/2	1.0	4.7
12 1/2	7 1/2	Blythe	128 1/2	11.5	4.4
2 1/2	14 1/2	Burman Mines	128 1/2	30.8	13.8

26	Buffelsfontein	245	343	74
08	CRA	405		
08	Charter Cons	245		
04	Cons Gold Fields	245		
384	De Beers 'Nid	245		
10	Doornfontein	245		
17	Driefontein	245		
19	Durban Road	245		
14	East Danga	245		
7	E. Rand Prop	245		

11	81	El Oro M & E	126	2	2	4	2
12	170	Elsborg Gold	127	1	1	1	1
13	20	F S Gault	128	1	1	1	1
14	83	Gavor Tin	129	1	1	1	1
15	8	Gavor Inv	130	1	1	1	1
16	13	Gen Mining	131	1	1	1	1
17	104	Goldfields S.A.	132	1	1	1	1
18	6	Grootvlei	133	1	1	1	1
19	169	Hampton Gold	134	1	1	1	1
20	10	Harport	135	1	1	1	1

32	33	Hartebeest	163	4	469	72
30	34	Joburg Cons	194	4	365	42
29	35	Kimross	179	4	157	5
28	36	Kloof	436	4	193	54
27	37	Leslie	348	4	178	81
26	38	Libanon	524	4	176	79
25	39	Lydenburg Plat	712	4	263	34
24	40	M.M. Higgs	230	4	30	14
23	41	NTD (Mangosia)	11	4	13	20
22	42	Natalia	66			

1983	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1984	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1985	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1986	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1987	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1988	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1989	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1990	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1991	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1992	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1993	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1994	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1995	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1996	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1997	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1998	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
1999	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2000	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2001	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2002	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2003	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2004	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2005	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2006	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2007	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2008	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2009	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2010	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2011	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2012	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2013	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2014	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2015	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
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2018	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2019	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2020	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2021	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2022	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
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2053	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2054	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
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2194	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2195	Maricopa Con	278	-3	28.6	10.3	
2196	Maricopa Con	278				

30	574	Antimony	234	+	25 4	3 9
30	114	Benken	234	+	25 4	3 9
31	432	Rio Tinto Zinc	854	-3	28 3	3 3
31	358	Rustenburg	852		28 3	3 3
342	194	St Helena	224	-1	25 2	10 0
33	311	SA Land	498	-10	34 0	7 9
374	31	Southvaal	1468	+4	223 4	4 8
33	180	Sunget Beq	273		45 2	12 0
35	160	Tanjong Tin	428		166	5 0
35	212	Transvaal Cons	153	-1	166	5 0

58	Vani News	150	8.8
61	Venterspost	111	6.2
13	Wankle Colliery	13	4.4
72	Welkom	29	10.5
364	W Rand Cons	65	8.1
201	Western Areas	40	3.3
26	Western Deep	109	14.0
151	Western Hlds	56	10.6
M	Western Mining	24	8
193	Winkels	24	8
20	Winkelbaak	57	2.8

Q8	14	Zambeta Copper	182	..	..	..	..
OIL							
00	74	Ampol Pet	114	-2	3.4	38	27.8
00	362	Anvil	91	-22	..	..	..
04	10	Aran Energy	75	-22	..	..	..
04	64	Atlantic Res	88	-48	..	..	..
06	36	Bristol OH	53	-4	..	..	..

236	Brit Barneo	333	19.2	5.8	17.1
237	S.P.	515	34.3	6.7	10.3
178	Britoil	255	14.3	5.6	8.9
124	Burnmah Oil	182	13.9	7.7	7.9
117	Carlens Capel	248	3.9	1.6	5.6
80	Century Oils	66	4.9	7.4	10.7
36	Charterhall	72	0.4	0.6	
804	Charterhall Pet	165	1.1	0.8	31.6
15	Collins R.	44			
23					

30	330	Gardner Wharfen	483	-10			
30	44	Goal Petroleum	126	-	1.4	1.1	19.0
30	148	Imp Cont Gas	313		15.1	4.8	17.1
31	23	KCA Drilling	34		4.3	12.6	5.8
30	223	Lasmo	328	-2	160	45.2	15.4
30	420	Do Ops	420		160	38.2	
30	103	Petroleum Grp	146		5.4	3.7	9.8
30	336	Premier Cons	577	+11			43.2
30	355	Ranger Oil	640	-10			
31	218	Royal Dutch	1,362	+4	208	5.7	5.7

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The

NEWS

Argentina surplus

FOOD INDICES	RETAIL PRICES
81.02 (1984)	100.00 (1984)
85.85 (1984)	100.00 (1984)
91.54 (1984)	100.00 (1984)
95.14 (1984)	100.00 (1984)
98.99 (1984)	100.00 (1984)
102.10 (1984)	100.00 (1984)
105.11 (1984)	100.00 (1984)

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Pressures increase for higher bank base rates

Belatedly the City has worked itself into a lather over interest rates - to the point where some of those who feel a rise in base rates to 9 per cent is unwarranted have been flustered into conceding that it may be unavoidable. Speculation has reached the point where the prophecies of higher rates may be self-fulfilling.

The pressures were intensifying yesterday. The three-month interbank rate, the focus of much attention because of the importance placed on it by Barclays in determining its base rate, edged up again. An eighth finer at one stage, it closed up 1/8 at 9 1/4 per cent.

At this point, theoretically, Barclays is on the point of raising its base rate which at 8 1/4 per cent is a quarter per cent higher than that of the other banks. However, two points are worth making. First, Barclays does take other factors into account when moving base rate. Second, its formula is not mechanical, jerked into movement every time the trigger lever moves. That said, if period rates remain at present levels or harden, the machine will probably churn out a higher base rate.

Not everybody in the markets, including the Treasury and the Bank of England, is entirely convinced that the recent trend in the money markets is a true guide to reality.

The City is very much at odds. Phillips & Drew, for instance, believes rates should and will go up, whereas another leading broker, Simon & Coates, argues that an increase is unnecessary and the odds are still against it.

Meanwhile, Dr Henry Kaufman, of Salomon Brothers, duly repeated the predictions he made through this column on Thursday, saying in Dallas that US interest rates would move spectacularly higher without an effective US fiscal policy, either late this year or early next. This contributed to yesterday's recovery in the dollar, up 1.6 pence to DM 2.7210, and to the gloom in the gilt market. Sterling was solid enough yesterday because of the expectation of higher base rates and another argument adduced for higher United Kingdom rates is that the differential between British and US rates cannot be allowed to widen.

The key to what happens next week is Tuesday's money supply figures for April. The prevailing view, albeit with exceptions, is that they will be at least mildly alarmist. If so, the interest rate conundrum will be solved.

Said one senior clearing banker: "Higher base rates are by no means a foregone conclusion". However, events may now have reached a pass where probably only a very comforting set of banking figures can head off an increase.

Tempting the fates with Comcap

Given the way the Budget will hit the banks' leasing operations this is not the most auspicious time to float a leasing company on the stock market. The renamed Wardley London, once Anthony Gibbs, is nevertheless tempting the fates next week with Comcap, one of the fast-growing IBM computer leasing companies. It is confident that leasing will continue to be an attractive if more expensive way of financing computer equipment.

Wardley is offering for sale 5.5 million Comcap shares or about a third of the

total at 120p each. Comcap will be the fourth IBM computer leasing company to have a full Stock Exchange listing and there are several other similar companies traded on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Comcap has achieved astonishing growth since being established in 1978 and last year its pretax profits more than tripled to £1.2m. Further significant progress is expected this year and the group, which already operates in five European countries, intends to extend further its network of operating subsidiaries.

Wardley and W Greenwell & Co. the brokers to the issue, may still have a job to do in convincing investors of Comcap's attractions. Two of the previous three IBM computer leasing company flotations, United Leasing and Dataserv, flopped. Not surprisingly, Comcap claims it is more comparable with Atlantic Computers - there are subtle differences in IBM computer business - and it is worth saying that Dataserv and United Leasing were offered for sale by unfashionable tender whereas Comcap is a fixed price offer in a still firm market.

The shares are being offered for sale on a fully taxed p/e of 27.3 and a yield of 1.8 per cent. That is a much higher rating than United's and Dataserv's but not as high as Atlantic's. Any initial premium is likely to be small.

Half a loaf on unitary taxation

Half a loaf is better than no bread. On that stoic principle, British companies and their representatives in the Unitary Tax Campaign have given a cautious welcome to the efforts of the high level unitary tax group set up by President Reagan last September to investigate the practice whereby nine US states now tax the subsidiaries of foreign multinationals on the basis of worldwide profits rather than those actually earned on the spot.

The US investigatory committee concluded this week that the unitary taxing states should switch to the so-called "water's edge" approach, levying taxes only on the basis of a corporation's US profits. Since the committee was widely thought to be a device for sweeping the whole issue under the carpet, this positive conclusion is certainly half a loaf.

The missing half is, however, crucial. To start with, there does not seem to be any mechanism now to hand to implement the committee's main conclusion, especially against the wishes of the independent-minded states and in an election-year when President Reagan has already rejected advice to introduce Federal legislation outlawing unitary taxation.

The panel also failed to resolve sharp differences over how states should tax dividends paid by the foreign subsidiaries of multinationals. Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary who also headed the panel, acknowledges that there are still controversial issues to be resolved.

Mr Regan hopes that the group will tie up some of these vital loose ends in a final report that it will submit to President Reagan before the London economic summit in June when Mrs Thatcher is bound to return to this unnecessarily nagging issue. Meantime, there is no reason for British companies or MPs to slacken the pressure for constructive action.

The Times 1984 Budget briefing

Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget is the most significant exercise in tax change, particularly for companies, since Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister. A new tax structure is taking shape and the repercussions are difficult to exaggerate.

To help directors, treasurers, professional advisers and investors of every kind to evaluate the Budget measures and to guide them in making the best practical responses, *The Times* has organized a special briefing at the Dorchester Hotel in London on Tuesday, May 22.

A distinguished panel of experts will speak on methods of corporate financing in the new tax environment, tax treatment of individuals, investing under the new tax

rules and the best ways of remunerating and motivating senior employees. All the main tax proposals will be put into their proper perspectives.

The principal speaker will be Mr John Moore, MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who with the Chancellor of the Exchequer was chiefly concerned with the corporate and income tax changes which figured so prominently in the Budget.

Anyone who missed the advertisements in *The Times* or who may want more information before sending in application forms, may like to telephone this number: 01-405 3591. Applications for tickets may also be made on this number.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentina's surplus up

Argentina has recorded an enhanced trade surplus of \$1.16bn (£820m) for the first quarter of this year and its finance minister, Señor Bernardo Grinspun, is reported to have imposed a 9 per cent limit on public and private sector salary increases.

● **TOOTAL's** pretax profits in the year to January 31, 1984, improved from £14.9m to £17.2m on sales down from £401m to £387m. Earnings per share rose from 5.3p to 5.7p.

Tempus, page 24

● **AIR CALL**, the telephone and communications group, has increased pretax profits to £1.3m for the year to December 1983, from £1m. Turnover increased from £15.2m to £17.6m.

Tempus, page 24

● **LIBERTY**, the stores and fabrics company with its headquarters in Regent Street, London, more than doubled its profits last year helped by the return of free-spending tourists. Profits increased from £606,000 to £1.4m.

Tempus, page 24

Hill Woolgar plans USM quote

Hill Woolgar, the licensed dealer which operates an over-the-counter market in the shares of eight companies, plans to join the ranks of the Stock Exchange's Unlisted Securities Market in October.

The only way in which it is possible to deal in the shares of

Hill Woolgar at present is through Hill Woolgar itself, which matches buyers and sellers.

The firm intends to start competing soon with some of the big stock jobbing firms by trading in a large number of USM stocks.

German jobless total increases

US production keeps rising

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The rapid decline in unemployment in the United States halted abruptly in April, while the underlying rate rose again in West Germany. But other economic indicators released yesterday suggest further strong expansion in the United States, together with some industrial growth in Europe.

The US Labor Department reported that the seasonally-adjusted civilian unemployment rate stood at 7.8 per cent of the workforce in April, unchanged from March. The total figure rose slightly, to 8,840,000 people.

However, the estimate of "non-farm payrolls" the most

widely-regarded measure of employment - rose 0.4 per cent to 407,000, in April, while the average working week increased and average factory overtime lengthened from 3.4 hours to 3.7 hours a week. This suggests industrial production is still rising quite strongly, as market analysts seem to have agreed.

They were given more to worry about in the latest warnings of higher interest rates from Dr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers.

Seasonally-adjusted, West German unemployment rose from 2,247,000 in March to 2,267,000 in April, although the unadjusted rate fell sharply, to

Dunlop in talks with bankers as net loss doubles to £167m

By William Kay, City Editor

The latest annual report from Dunlop, the tyres, sports equipment and mattresses group, makes it plain that the survival of the company depends on talks taking place with banks to cut borrowings.

Operating profits rose from £41m to £63m during 1983, but tax, interest and extraordinary charges drove the net attributable loss at the bottom line up from £83m to £167m. One result was that loans could not be repaid.

A note to the accounts says: "The increase of amounts falling due within one year from £39.1m at December 31, 1982, to £207.4m at December 31, 1983, reflects the fact that more of the group's borrowings were technically repayable on demand."

"The company and its principal bankers are working con-

structively on measures to ensure the availability of finance for the group's future needs. These measures include the granting of security to unsecured lenders."

The cold language of accountancy, in this case from the pen of Ernst and Whinney, masks intense negotiations which have been taking place for several months.

The auditors' report is inevitably qualified. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, but Ernst and Whinney add that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group "subject to adequate finance being available."

Sir Maurice Hodgson, the former ICI head who took over as chairman of Dunlop at the beginning of this year, points out that shareholders' funds will



Sir Campbell Fraser: £137,400 compensation

be "significantly reduced" by a provision of £12m against expected losses in Tyres Europe this year until the business is acquired by Sumitomo Rubber Industries of Japan. This has driven the debt/equity ratio sharply upwards.

"The present level (of the

debt/equity ratio) is unacceptably high," says Sir Maurice, "and measures are being taken, in consultation to reduce the group's borrowings."

However, Sir Maurice is able to claim that trading results for the early months of 1984 "are running ahead of those for the corresponding period of 1983," mainly because of the continuing improvement in the level of Europe business and steps taken to cut overheads.

That is a small consolation to shareholders, who are being asked to swallow a £137,400 compensation payment to the outgoing chairman, Sir Campbell Fraser for termination of his service contract, after he had collected more than £80,000 in each of the past two years while the company's fortunes plunged. It is breathtaking to record that he has been offered and accepted the post of honorary president.

Lotus tax demand for £80m discharged

By Jonathan Clare

Group Lotus, the sports car manufacturer, is no longer under the shadow of the heavy tax assessments presented by the Inland Revenue.

Yesterday the General Commissioners for the Inland Revenue in Wymondham, Norfolk, unanimously discharged the assessments, which had anyway been reduced to just two, against the car company.

The demand originated from the investigation into the "misuse" of De Lorean money and totalled more than £80m via a series of assessments several of which were alternatives to each other. Lotus was never told the specific sum the Inland Revenue wanted.

The commissioners' decision has removed one of the main barriers to selling more cars in the US and will allow the management to concentrate on the launch of the new X-100 sports car, which will sell for less than £100,000.

But yesterday, Lotus, which normally enjoys a high profile through its colourful chairman, Mr David Wickins, was unusually reticent and directed all in queries through its legal adviser, Mr David Cooper of Gouldens.

He said: "Put it this way: The Revenue fought the case for five days and lost. I don't know what they will do now but the major barrier is out of the way."

Last night the Inland Revenue said it would wait for written confirmation from the commissioners before deciding what to do but pointed out that it could appeal to the High Court.

Mr Fred Bushell, the former chairman, is now expected to resume his executive duties but what position he will hold on the board is uncertain.

DeLorean plant plan abandoned

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Sinclair Vehicles, the electric car company owned by Sir Clive Sinclair, confirmed yesterday that it had abandoned its plan to build its proposed range of vehicles at the former DeLorean sports car plant in west Belfast.

The company, which has already announced an intention to build a family of electric cars in the next three or four years, said its option on the Belfast facility had been allowed to lapse. It declined to reveal further details except to say that there had been insufficient time to resolve issues with other parties.

Sinclair's first car, designed for commuters, is expected to be produced next year by Hoover at its Merthyr Tydfil factory in south Wales.

The DeLorean receivers, Sir Kenneth Cork and Mr Paul Shewell, are now expected to make plans for the auction of the plant's equipment and to sell the 72-acre site and buildings. Included in the lots will be 2,000 of the ill-fated company's gull-wing sports cars.

Pension funds win options tax relief

By Our City Editor

The Government yesterday paved the way for a considerable expansion of activity in traded options by exempting funds from tax on them.

Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written Commons reply: "Having considered the representations on this subject, we have decided to grant this exemption. The necessary amendment will be introduced at committee stage of the Finance Bill."

That should mean that it will become law by the summer recess. The measure should make effect from the beginning of the present tax year.

Mr Matthew Oakshott, manager of the Courtaulds

pension fund and a leader of the campaign for this change, said: "We are delighted that at last the position has been clarified."

The Stock Exchange celebrated by recording 4,433 traded options contracts, 1,981 of them in the two-day-old FT-SE options, after 2,600 in the new contracts on the opening day.

● Interest rate and currency swings led to record trading of 14,646 contracts on the London International Financial Futures Exchange. The previous record of 12,047 was set on March 1. The open interest position is also at a record 24,860. But the FT-SE futures contract was overshadowed, at 694 contracts, compared with 1,277 on Thursday.

BA names accountant

By Ian Griffiths

Ernst and Whinney has been appointed reporting accountant for the privatization of British Airways, scheduled for early next year. The international firm of accountants is already BA's auditor.

Work will start shortly on both long and short form reports and reports on working capital and indebtedness as part of the preparation of the prospectus.

Ernst and Whinney already has experience of the sale of state-owned assets and as auditor of BP acted in the sell-off of its shares. It also advised on the management buyout of the National Freight Corporation.

The accountancy firm has strong connections with the aviation industry and is also the auditor of British Caledonian, the independent airline.

US hints at easing of export law

By John Lawless

The US appears to have made a big concession to other western countries, and particularly Britain, over its contentious Export Administration Act.

The dispute over whether US domestic laws can be used to control the activities of non-American companies operating abroad came to a head in June, 1982 when the Reagan administration tried to ban £104m worth of British turbines containing American made parts being shipped to the Siberian gas pipeline.

The Government ordered John Brown Engineering to ignore the US decree - made in protest over martial law in Poland - and British ministers said recently they expected the row to continue.

However, an official at the US Embassy in London yesterday indicated that Washington may be prepared to reach an accommodation with the other countries, under which it would expect them to use fully their own "enforcement standards."

Whether the US has backed down completely - and followed the advice of Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, not to repeal the Act, but to put it on a shelf and allow it to gather dust - remains to be seen.

World debt talks

Dr Martin Feldstein, President Reagan's chief economic adviser, said yesterday talks were under way between governments, the International Monetary Fund, banks and debtor countries to come up with a prompt intermediate solution to the global debt crisis.

"My hope is that some progress will be made in the near term," he said.

His remarks appear at odds, however, with the views expressed by British officials who indicated no developments are imminent, although longer term solutions will be discussed at a meeting in New York next week attended mainly by central bankers.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1134.0 down 7.6 (Day's High: 1135.8, Low: 1133.5)
 FT Index: 915.4 down 7.4
 FT Gilt: 81.02 down 0.38
 Bergmans: 23.297
 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 113.34 up 1.18
 New York Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1173.89 down 7.64
 Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,190.17 up 84.71
 Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 1002.57 down 2.04
 Amsterdam: 177.0 up 2.5
 Sydney: AO Index 763.0 down 4.3
 Frankfurt Commerzbank Index: 1047.0 up 0.4
 Brussels General Index 155.62 down 0.14
 Paris: CAC Index 180.8 down 0.9
 Zurich: SKA General 317.60 down 0.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.4095 down 5pts
 Index 80.5 up 0.4
 DM 3.8375 up 0.0100
 FF 11.7700 up 1.25
 Yen 320.00 up 1.25
 Dollar Index 129.6 down 0.2
 DM 2.7210 up 0.0152

NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.4095
 Dollar DM 2.7210

INTERNATIONAL
 ECU 0.585904
 SDR 0.746527

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rates 8 1/2%
 Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2%
 3 month interbank 9 1/4 - 9 1/2%
Euro-currency rates:
 3 month Dollar 11 1/8 - 11 1/4%
 3 month DM 5 1/2% - 5 3/4%
 3 month Fr 12 1/4% - 12 1/2%
US rates:
 Bank prime rate 12.00
 Fed funds 9 1/8
 Treasury long bond 9 1/4 - 9 1/2%
 EOGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period April 4, 1984 to May 1, 1984 inclusive: 8.934 per cent.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Rate fears end record run

By Michael Clark

The chill of higher interest rates sent a shudder through the stock market yesterday as share prices ended this week's record-breaking run on a dull note.

Dealers are fearful that next Tuesday's money supply figures will make gloomy reading and start another round of interest rate rises among the banks and building societies. There are also gloomy predictions on the other side of the Atlantic that take-off and this was responsible for the 7-point fall in the Dow Jones Average during the first hour of trading on Wall Street.

Sentiment in London was also upset by the setback for the Conservatives in the local

The first set of interim figures since 1981, the half-year and quarterly figures, joined the USM last June are out on Wednesday. These should show profits up at least 15 per cent at just over £650,000 with analysts looking for £1.65m for the year against £1.2m last time. The report should also contain details of a new venture in the new higher market. The shares originally placed at 80p last 1p to 91p.

government elections. As a result, investors were inclined to unwind their positions ahead of the three-day break before making for the sidelines. But jobbers described selling as light and it gave them the opportunity to mark prices lower still in an attempt to replenish their books. This was reflected in the FT index which closed at its low for the day 7.4 down at 915.4. However, the index is still 7.4 up on the week. The FT-SE 100 also lost 7.6 at 1134.0.

Conditions after hours were described as quiet, with many of those dealers who had not attended the Stock Exchange Golf Tournament taking the opportunity to start the week-end early.

Gilts also reflected the trend towards dearer money with falls of up to £1: at the longer end.

The new "tap" Treasury 9½ per cent convertible 1989 lost another ½ to close at £49½ in its partly-paid form. The FT Government Securities Index closed 0.38 down at a year's low of 81.02.

Leading industrials closed mixed. BTR lost 7p at 487p. Becton 3p at 523p. Blue Circle 2p at 423p. BOC Group 1p at 297. Boots 3p at 175p. Bowater 1p at 313p. Courtaulds 2p at 157p. GEC 3p at 183p. GKN 3p at 203p. Glaxo 5p at 865p. Grand Metropolitan 4p at 356p. ICI 8p at 998p. Imperial Group 2p at 164p. Plessey 6p at 320p. Tate & Lyle 5p at 408p. TI Group 4p at 256p. Trusthouse Forte 3p at 131p and Vickers 2p at 175p. Going against the trend, Hawker Siddeley wiped out an early 6p fall to close 2p up at 456p. Lucas Industries rose 2p to 233p and Cadbury Schweppes 3p to 142p.

Greggs, the North of England bakery chain, made its long awaited debut with the shares opening at 170p compared with the offer price of 135p. The 2.53 million shares were more than 90 times oversubscribed, attracting about \$1,000 applications for a total of 225 million shares. After fluctuating in narrow limits throughout the day the price eventually closed

at 166p - a premium 33p in first-time dealings. The four high street banks were a dull market with Lloyds dipping 7p to 612p in further response to Thursday's annual meeting. Midland lost 3p to

at 166p - a premium 33p in first-time dealings.

The four high street banks were a dull market with Lloyds dipping 7p to 612p in further response to Thursday's annual meeting. Midland lost 3p to

399p and National Westminster slipped 2p to 622p. Barclays closed above its worst level of the day at 489p - a net fall of 3p. Bank of Scotland closed at 327p after going ex scrip while the Royal Bank of Scotland failed to hold on to an earlier lead, losing 3p at 230p.

Discount houses had another mixed session with Jessel Toynebee reversing an early fall to gain 102p after Thursday's figures. Catter Allen also hardened 5p to 338, but there were losses in Clive Discount down 1p at 58p. Gerrard & National down 3p at 319p. King & Shaxson 2p at 158p. Secombe & Marshall 3p at 355p and Smith St Aubyn 1p at 67p.

Stores spent a dull session amid fears that a rise in interest would mean less being spent in the shops. Harris Queensway lost 2p at 402p. MFI 1p at 164p. British Home Stores 12p at 223p. Burton 3p at 290p. Great Universal Stores 'A' 7p at 638p and the ordinary 15p at 643p. There were also losses in J. H. P. 4p to 288p. Marks & Spencer 2p to 265p and Habitat Mothercare 4p to 332p. Martin the Newsagent crashed an early loss to close only 1p higher on the day at 276p, after 2.1p, still reflecting interest in the contested bid from W. H. Smith, down unchanged at 148p. John Menzies rose 3p to 373p after figures earlier in the week, while the other newspaper retailer NXS Newsagents closed unchanged at 90p.

In oils, fears of a petrol war continued to fade after Shell's decision to bring its prices at the pumps back in line with its competitors. BP slipped 6p to 515p, while Shell recovered from an early 5p deficit to expand 5p on the day at 655p. Selective support lifted Tricent 5p to 223p still taking account of the sale of its US onshore interests. The buyers also came out for Charterhouse Petroleum 4p dearer at 165p and Premier 1½p higher at 57½p.

Rumours of a gas find

nothing of much consequence beyond a month. Day to day funds were cheap throughout. They opened at 8½ to 8¾ per cent and were down to 7½ to 7¾ per cent by the end of the morning. Sliding steeply as the afternoon progressed, they closed around 1 per cent. Some brokers found money virtually unobtainable at the finish.

Rumours of a gas find

boosted Atlantic Resources 8p to 88p. While exploration hopes lifted Eglinton Oil 12p to 240p and Sovereign Oil & Gas 13p to 312p.

Tarmac's £28m acquisition of Westbrick Ltd from C. H. Beazer has resulted in it substantially increasing its stake in Blockleys. An announcement yesterday confirmed Tarmac now owns 262,000 shares, or 17.45 per cent compared with the 0.45 per cent it previously owned. C. H. Beazer held its stake in Blockleys through Westbrick, which it bought three years ago for a total of £4m. Since then, Beazer has floated D. W. Tod, a subsidiary of Westbrick, specialising in sonar domes, on the

Hard Rock Cafe, the over-the-counter quoted hamburger joint, has been given a 10 per cent stake in its US counterpart, Hard Rock, in exchange for the use of its name. The news came on the day when Hard Rock (UK) reported pretax profits of £199,000 on a turnover of £956,000. Shares of Hard Rock in London rose 3p to 57p, while in New York the ADRs were changing hands at 65p.

Unlisted Securities Market and now boasts a healthy profit from the sale of the rest of the Westbrick interests. Blockleys, the bricks and roofing tiles manufacturer, celebrated the news of the increased stake with a rise of 78p to a high of 503p as dealers expressed hopes that Tarmac would eventually make a full bid for the remainder of the shares. Tarmac would not comment on its plans and slipped 4p on the news before closing at 514p, a net fall of 2p on the day. Investors in Industry also own a further 17 per cent of Blockleys. But Beazer encountered profit taking losing 6p to 420p.

Equity turnover on May 3, was £276,786m (19,862 bargains). The number of British and Irish stocks traded was 156.6 million. Gilt bargains totalled 2,985.

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Rumours of a gas find

7% stake in Perrier sold for £22.3m

By Philip Robinson

Source Perrier SA, the French producer of mineral water, confirmed yesterday that 7 per cent of its shares have been placed privately in London this week.

The 450,000 to 500,000 shares were placed by foreign holders who bought them about two years ago. No member of the Leven Family, which runs the company, or any of the directors, was involved.

Speculation this week was that a million shares had been sold and that these had come from an original shareholder of the company.

Market sources put the price of the deal at 538 francs per share against a market price of Fr546. At that price, the stake which has changed hands is worth £22.3m.

Perrier employees hold 2.11 per cent of the company, a 3.09 per cent stake is held by the French government-owned savings bank, and the remainder of the equity is held between 30,000 and 40,000 unidentified shareholders, who include the Leven family.

APPOINTMENTS

Ross Foods: Mr John Houston has become retail sales director and has joined the board.

Business Aircraft Users Association: Mr Derek C. Leggett has been appointed chief executive on the retirement of Mr Robert R. Stephenson.

Trebort: The board has been restructured and now comprises Mr Ian Marks, chairman and chief executive with Mr Arthur Chapman, Mr Wallace Garland, Mr Ted Gillespie, Mr David Kappler, Mr Frank Reed, Mr Jack Thompson and Mr John Tibbles as directors and Mr Tim Green and Mr Peter Prior and non-executive directors.

American Trust: Sir Norman Macfarlane has been appointed chairman. Sir James Gould joins the board as a director.

Gesteiner Holdings: Mr David Harbut has become director. J. W. Spear and Sons: Mr M. C. Wildy has joined the board as a non-executive director.

Collier Holdings: Mr John Thomson has been appointed non-executive chairman and Mr Brian McMeekin has become a non-executive director.

Nabarro Nathanson: Mrs Margaret Kemp, Mr Graham Clark, Mr Martin Bridgewater, Mr Jonathan Rossandler, Miss Christine Hand, Mr Laurence Elks and Mr Kevin Stimpson have joined the partnership.

Stancliffe, Todd & Hodgson: Mr Jeffrey Plozman has joined the partnership.

TEMPUS

Tootal convalesces after major surgery

Tootal is yet another example of a household British trade name which has needed major corporate surgery fast. The scale and speed of the various incisions - extraordinary debits total more than £43m since 1980 - have led to some obscurity in the reported figures, a problem compounded by swift changes in the group's trading pattern.

Thus, last year, the sale of the Australian Bradmill interests for a book loss conceals the group's net £9m gain on the investment. Poor advice over the Tootal US tax position has compelled a £9m prior year adjustment over shareholders' funds.

The divisional profits breakdown is now stated net of interest, whereas previously the figures were published gross. To round off the picture, IMF credit stringency in West Africa has prompted pro forma a £2.6m drop in the textiles division profits.

But the patient, after a long stretch on the operating table, is convalescing equally quickly. The Bradmill sale generated £20m, chopped gearing down to a third and slashed the underlying interest bill by £2m to about £6m. Concentration on the US thread interests may have produced some £4m in profits last year, and both the thread and nonwoven divisions have plenty of potential.

Add the strong defensive performances of both textiles and clothing in difficult years and the market's hunch of further growth to come this year - perhaps £20m pretax - could be justified.

The shares have outperformed against the market by 11 per cent since April, so lots of people are getting the same message. The shares closed last night off 1½p at 47½p.

Air Call

Air Call is one of the few companies that operate in the same markets as British Telecom. It therefore provides a source of the much talked about competition which must be met when the cumbersome corporation is privatised.

The prospect of a continued monopoly freed of state control will not be relished by Air Call. It has struggled bravely to build up its business in the face of what might be considered unfair competition and has performed remarkably well. The big concern now is that the pressures on a privatised British Telecom imposed by investors demanding high and speedy returns will force it to restrict further competition to a bare minimum to meet its own objectives.

The biggest boost for Air

Call would be a much more open market place with more companies operating there, so that the market can be pushed forward and developed through keen competition. It is unlikely that this will happen in the short term and Air Call can only reflect on its misfortune to be operating in Britain rather than the US, where its talents and expertise would receive wider appreciation with consequent improvement in its results.

The increase in pretax profits this year is a testimony to Air Call's product range. Its turnover this year will be increased by the acquisition of Consortium Communications International in the US and the communications interests held by Air Call's parent company, which will expand its overseas involvement.

To add to Air Call's frustration with the Government, the changes to corporation tax have resulted in a £1.8m provision for deferred tax which not only exceeds pretax profits but also makes a very substantial dent in reserves. The shares closed 3p down at 418p.

Liberty

Oscar Wilde was once Liberty's most famous customer: he would no doubt now be astonished both by how the retail and fabrics company's business has grown since 1874 and the havoc that the modern Inland Revenue has wreaked on this year's earnings.

Most of the substantial increase in profits is due to trading both on the retail and wholesale side. Property sales - essentially The Clachman pub - have been taken below the line as a £253,000 extraordinary item.

Despite the more than doubled pre-tax profits, earnings per share have fallen from 13.08p to 10.74p because of a £1m swing in the tax bill from a credit of £276,000 to a charge of £704,000. The credit, combined with Liberty's normally conservative accounting, distorts the figures.

Retail sales in Britain more than doubled to more than £1m with good trade from the six shops which have benefited by the return of free spending tourists.

The new ranges of Liberty bed linen, diaries and tea cosies in the wholesale division have also substantially improved its profitability to more than £1m. Losses from the US operation are still mounting after three years there, but this year has started better.

Sales in the first two months of this year are ahead by about 20 per cent though the

improvement is partly offset by rising costs. One shop is due to be redeveloped this year while the last vacant space in Liberty House should be let.

The dividend has been raised by a more than useful 50 per cent from 3p to 4.5p and the shares rose 5p to 280p. But the company is a close company and the Liberty-Stewart family remains firmly in the driving seat.

Gilts

Gilts finished the week on a despairing note, after hearing Dr Kaufman in Dallas on rising rates. On the day, falls of some ½ widened the losses on the week to a fairly stunning magnitude. A bellwether stock among the shorts, like Treasury 12 per cent 1987, dropped by well over a point, while in the longs, a runner like Treasury 13 per cent 2000, shed 1½ points. The new tap, Treasury 9½ per cent Convertible 1989 closed yesterday nearly ½ points down on the issue price at 49½, and sympathy weakness among the convertibles was exemplified by the performance of Treasury 9½ per cent Convertible 1988, which lost 1½ points on the week.

The parallel scale of losses among both the shorts and longs suggests that interest rate fears remain among the market's principal preoccupations. Nor does the US offer much consolation. A fall in the basic US money supply measure, M1, of \$3.6bn for the week to April 23 brings American monetary growth close to the bottom end of the target range. But US bond holders assume that the Fed is targeting 3½ growth and credit demand.

Among the gilts, the very short shorts are now yielding around 9½ per cent, so that assuming a normal spread between base rates and period yields, the market is now discounting anything between a ½ and 1 point rise in base rates.

As well as money supply fears, gilts developed a fresh set of jitters yesterday this time over the impending producer price index for April, which is set, according to some forecasts, to show a rise in output prices of close on a point. If all the economic news is poor, then the longer the banks delay their move the bigger the hike in rates.

But for those who know about these things, the whole matter has already been resolved. The Treasury gilt tender rate rose yesterday by 0.18 per cent to 8.45 per cent. Charges in the rate tend to be followed fairly speedily by base rate changes.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar continued to hold firm after profit-taking earlier on, had pushed it lower.

The pound made headway as talk persisted that British interest rates will soon be raised. The effective exchange index closed with a 0.4 point advantage at 80.5, compared with 80.1 overnight.

Sterling also did well against the Deutsche mark at 3.8320

(3.8220) and moved higher against the Swiss franc at 3.1720 (3.1610). In dollar terms, however, the pound closed 3 points easier at 1.4095.

The long holiday weekend kept business volume moderate. Dealers said, few operators were willing to open fresh positions, but higher federal fund rates gave a mid-session life to the US unit.

MONEY MARKETS

The limelight was again on the interbank periods where active borrowers gave the market a busy day and rates held firm after rising sharply this week in anticipation of an early rise in base rates.

Sterling certificates of deposit saw much less of the action. There was some business in the very short dates, facilitated by cheap money, but certainly

nothing of much consequence beyond a month.

Day to day funds were cheap throughout. They opened at 8½ to 8¾ per cent and were down to 7½ to 7¾ per cent by the end of the morning.

Sliding steeply as the afternoon progressed, they closed around 1 per cent. Some brokers found money virtually unobtainable at the finish.

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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Travellers' joy

Customers of Bristol & West Building Society are now able to obtain a commission-free - sterling Visa - travellers' cheques from their local branch. Packs of five sterling travellers' cheques will be available to customers on demand in £10, £20, and £50 denominations with payment coming from their account.

Rates moved

Trustee Savings Bank has moved the interest rates paid on two of its accounts. The return on its seven days' notice account falls from 5.5 to 5.25 per cent while interest paid on the 28 days' notice account rises from 7.5 to 8.5 per cent. The return is subject to tax.

New account

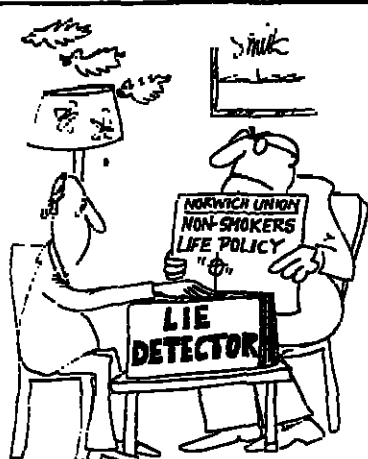
Leamington Spa Building Society has launched an account called the Spa Income Account. The interest rate is variable but guaranteed to be 1.15 per cent per annum above the rate paid on the society's Fully Paid Share. The interest rate on the new account is presently 7.50 per cent a year, equivalent to 10.71 per cent for basic rate taxpayers. The interest will be paid monthly and may be credited to the account or forwarded direct to the investor's bank account. The issue is strictly limited with a minimum investment of £5,000 and the maximum £30,000. Withdrawals are allowed on demand and with penalty. Further details from Leamington Spa Building Society Head Office (0925 279320).

Homes help

A revised version of the Building Societies Association's booklet on house purchase has been published. It offers information on investing in building societies and other aspects of home ownership, as well as building society lending policy, different types of mortgage, arrangements for tax relief on mortgage interest, the legal steps involved in buying a house, surveys, stamp duty and Land Registry fees. Single copies of the 32-page booklet can be obtained by writing to The Building Societies Association, 3 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF enclosing a large stamped addressed envelope (17p stamp).

Natural interest

If you fancy natural resources - now at the bottom of the investment performance league tables - the new unit trust from the fund managers Foreign & Colonial might be just the thing. The fund will invest in mining, metals and oil and gas companies. The fund managers say: "The fund is being launched when economic expansion is finally feeding through into demand for energy and metals. Investment in natural resources has been overlooked while investment attention has been focused on the Far East and technology. At a time when equity markets round the world are standing at near record levels, the price of many natural resource stocks seems unwarrantably low." Minimum investment in the F & C Natural Resources Fund is £500.



Clean-air policy

Non-smokers are being offered discounts on life and term insurance policies in a new scheme from Norwich Union. Non-smokers are defined as people who have not smoked cigarettes in the last 12 months and have no intention of doing so in the future. Norwich is offering a consumption of pipe tobacco and cigars in offering non-smoking reductions. The reduced premiums will be calculated by applying the rate of premium for someone three years younger, the result of research into the effects of cigarette smoking on the average life span.

Leicester offer

A new short-notice account offering 1.25 per cent over the ordinary share account has been introduced by Leicester Building Society. Money can be withdrawn on 28 days' notice without penalty.

To qualify, investors must have a minimum opening investment of £500, and maintain a minimum investment of £100 in the account, providing that they already have a Leicester share account. Leicestercard investors can take advantage of a wide range of services, benefits and money-saving offers including discounts in more than 8,000 local retail outlets. Leicestercard holders can also transact their building society business at any one of the 20,000 post offices throughout the United Kingdom. Further details from The Leicester Building Society 0533 717272.

Key package

A new system has been launched to suit all but the largest pension funds and is particularly appropriate for medium-sized schemes with membership of between 200 and 2,000. The system, a computer-based software package called Key comes from Willis Faber Advisory Services and Pension and Insurance Computer Services. Key's special features include high flexibility and it can accommodate complicated pension designs. It is easy to operate and is designed for the IBM personal computer.

The Key system is on display at the exhibition attached to the NAPP conference at the Metropole Hotel, the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. The exhibition began last Thursday. Inquiries to Willis Faber Advisory Services 01-488 8111.

Investing range

A new range of investment schemes has been launched by Britannia Building Society. Under the Seven-Day Notice Plan, investors with more than £10,000 will receive an extra 1.25 per cent interest over the basic share rate which works out at 7.50 per cent. For a minimum investment of £500, savers will earn 7.25 per cent net of basic rate tax under the same plan. For longer term investors the Two-Year Term Bond pays investors with £1,000 or more 7.85 per cent net and provides monthly income. Alternatively, investors can earn a very attractive 8 per cent net if interest is left in the account. Investors who prefer not to make that commitment can invest in the Two-Year Term Share which pays the same interest as above but with the advantage of money being able to be withdrawn on demand with the loss of 90 days' interest. Further details from Britannia Building Society (0538) 385131.

Fighting the taxman

A training video *Getting Those Tax Problems Taped* has been produced by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, with financial support from the Prudential to tackle

the topical problem of PAYE investigations.

Part of the half-day training package devised by the Institute gives a dramatic account of how a PAYE investigation is carried out by the Inland Revenue and explains the role of the financial adviser. This follows news that the Inland Revenue has set an extra 200 investigators to the task of squeezing an additional £30 million a year from PAYE taxpayers.

Inquiries to: The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (01-628 7060) or Prudential Assurance (01-488 8222).

L & G to sell fund

Legal and General has taken the unusual step of going into partnership with another financial institution. European Banking Company, to market EBC's Traded Currency Fund. L & G's sales force will promote the fund, primarily with insurance brokers and financial intermediaries. As an offshore fund, it cannot be advertised in this country and EBC has no direct sales force or broker connections - hence the link with L & G. The fund's net performance for its first three months shows a growth of 20 per cent on an annualised basis when measured in dollars, in which it is denominated. Its present composition - reflecting the managers' long-term view of the dollar - is 35 per cent dollars, 30 per cent yen, 20 per cent Deutschmark, 10 per cent sterling and 5 per cent French francs.

INVESTING

A tax-free fund from Gartmore

Gartmore, the fund management group, has come up with the nearest thing yet to a "no load" fund with no initial charges. There is one price for both buying and selling.

Aimed at the larger private investor, Gartmore's Capital Strategy Fund is based in Jersey and is therefore effectively a tax-free fund so your investments should accumulate at a much faster rate.

The big appeal is that there is no front end charge - the different classes of shares which represent the 13 investment funds have one dealing price which represents the net value of the underlying assets. In addition, you can switch between the funds with four free switches a year.

Because you are simply swapping one class of share for another, Gartmore believes that the switches will be free of capital gains tax. Only when you finally realized your investment would you have a potential liability to CGT.

There is no stamp duty charged on share transactions in Jersey, so dealing costs will be lower for both the fund and the individual investor. The only charges will be a 0.75 per cent annual management charge on the value of the funds managed.

The different investment pots offer a choice of 13 types of investment. There are five currency funds, sterling, US dollar, Yen, Deutschmark and Swiss Franc.

There are also eight equity and fixed-interest funds to choose from.

GOWER REVIEW

New Act must be flexible

Now that the date for responses to Professor Laurence Gower's Review of Investor Protection has passed, the institutions are publishing their views. Predictably, there is much criticism.

A common theme is that whatever legislation is introduced, it should be sufficiently flexible not to stifle the institutions it seeks to regulate. The Life Offices Association says: "Any new investor protection

legislation should be sufficiently flexible to allow financial institutions to adapt.

The accountants are a little more forthright. "The Gower proposals will increase bureaucracy and the proposed arrangements would open the way for unnecessarily detailed intervention by government into the conduct of investment business," says the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies.

PENSIONS

A better deal on way for job changers

A clause in the Health and Social Security Bill, which finished its passage through the Commons this week will give a much better pensions deal to job changers and employees made redundant.

Among the more technical clauses is one designed to abolish "franking" in occupational pension schemes, a practice which reduced the pension paid by company schemes to job changers and others with deferred pension benefits.

"Franking" makes use of a loophole in the 1975 Social Security Pensions Act.

If a person spends more than five years in a pension scheme which is contracted out of the state earnings-related scheme, then when they leave, they cannot have a refund of their contributions. The pension must instead be either kept in the scheme, or transferred to the new employer or into a special "transfer" pension policy with an insurance company. Transfers between company schemes are difficult to arrange, outside the public sector, so more usually the pension will be "preserved".

One of the conditions of contracting out is that the

employer must guarantee the part of the pension that is replacing the state earnings-related pension, and this part is usually called the GMP for short. The guarantee is that the employer will pay this amount instead of the state, so that the employee will not lose out.

When the employee leaves, therefore, the employer has a duty not just to hang on to this guaranteed pension, but to increase it to take some account of inflation. There is a choice of methods, but the one usually chosen is to give an increase of 8.5 per cent compound a year.

So what is wrong with this? The person not only has a preserved pension, but it is being increased. The catch, however, is that as the law stands at present, it is only the GMP that must be increased, and the rest of the pension can be used up to pay for the revaluation.

Take for example Mrs Gina White, aged 35, who was made redundant last year. She was paying 5 per cent contributions to her scheme, after taking account of tax relief, this was about half as much again as she would have paid to the state.

Her company pension, she was told, would reflect this, and

by much better than the pension from the state. When she left, her total preserved pension was £750. £500 of which was the GMP. Her GMP increases by 8.5 per cent a year, and in five years it will become £751.80. So that is what she will get. Because her scheme practices "franking" she will receive only the GMP, with nothing extra to take account of the extra contributions she had put in. The "excess" has been swallowed up by the GMP.

Franking means that because of the guarantee no one will get less than the GMP. But it is common for a person to have paid contributions in excess of what would be required to pay for the state scheme, and still get only the same pension as they would have had from the state.

A good employer will pay the "excess" pension on top of the GMP, and hopefully increase it as well. But employers decided to "frank" back in 1978 partly out of penny-pinching.

The "anti-franking" clauses in the Health and Social Security Bill are designed to ensure that the extra pension you have earned is paid on top of the GMP.

Sue Ward

SAVINGS

TSB has unit trusts taped

The Trustee Savings Bank, winner of one of the 182 Plain English Awards for its home insurance literature, has set out to explain unit trusts in simple English.

The bank has produced a booklet in which the TV personality, Mr Cliff Michmore, offers a plain man's guide to capital growth, income trusts and the like. The better people understand unit trusts the more likely they are to invest in them.

Some people said it was too difficult and some people said it was too simple - so we think we have got it just about right," said Mr Geoffrey Gray, TSB's unit trust marketing manager.

The booklet has been produced by taping interviews at which Mr Michmore probed the unit trust managers so he could understand the finer workings of the unit trust system. When the draft was

prepared it was tested on the public and few stumbling blocks, were noted. The book sets out in detail the TSBs Trust Company, said that the range of trusts will be expanded over the

next five years with the addition of about five new unit trusts including a European trust and a financial trust.

Vivien Goldsmith

Comparison of unit trusts' popularity and performance with other savings vehicles	
	Percentage of UK population All Adults
Savings Vehicles	
Building society accounts	52.8
Bank, deposit or savings accounts	40.6
Index-Linked National Savings Certificates	7.2
Direct in stocks and shares	5.9
Unit trusts	4.6
National Savings Bank investment account	4.5

Source: 1983 Target Group Index Survey

HOME LOANS

Miners' payments eased

Miners in difficulties over their mortgages are finding a sympathetic response from building societies. The societies are generally happy to allow them to repay the interest element of the mortgage and defer capital repayments.

The Yorkshire Building Society says it is trying to be lenient in cases where there were no arrears before

The Doncaster, Mansfield and Barnsley branches of Bradford and Bingley Building Society estimate that 20 per cent of their customers are miners and 20 per cent of them are in difficulties.

Most societies are willing to let arrears build up for two or three months, so the time for stern reviews is fast approaching.

Far East investment is profitable - or is it?

Our results say it is - very

TR Pacific Basin Investment Trust has over 90 per cent of its investments in the Far East stock markets.

Last year the share price rose by 69 per cent and the net asset value by 52 per cent while shareholders received a total return of 71.9 per cent, taking share price appreciation and dividends received together.

This performance was so good that TR Pacific Basin Investment Trust won an award by the Money Observer for being the best performing large investment trust in 1983.

Of course, asset values were favourably affected by the movement in the Yen/Sterling exchange rate and this may not happen again. However, the relentless search for investments in the growth industries and technologies of the future will continue.

We believe that the stock markets of the Pacific Basin continue to have great potential.

If you would like to know more about us, send for a copy of our newly published Annual Report.

To: Company Secretary, TR PACIFIC BASIN INVESTMENT TRUST, Mermaid House, 2 Puddles Dock, London EC4V 3AT

Please send me a copy of your 1984 Annual Report

Name: _____

Address: _____



TR Pacific Basin Investment Trust PLC
A MEMBER OF THE TOUCHE REMMANT MANAGEMENT GROUP
TOTAL FUNDS UNDER GROUP MANAGEMENT EXCEED £2,100 MILLION

The Fleming Mercantile Investment Trust plc

An investment trust offering an actively managed portfolio with emphasis on overseas investment and on unlisted and other developing companies.

Year to 31st January	Dividend per share	Asset Value per share	Share price
1979	1.70p	62.2p	41p
1983	2.75p	117.1p	79p
1984	2.80p	144.2p	100p

Asset Values per share shown with prior charges deducted at market.

Distribution of Equity Portfolio

U.K.	46.1%	Japan	11.4%
North America	29.7%	Others	12.8%

Copies of the Report and Financial Statements may be obtained from the Secretary, Robert Fleming Services Limited, P & O Building, 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4QR.

Balance Sheet

	Notes	1983 £'000	1982 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	145,834	12
Investments in Companies	14	-	-
Other investments		4,426	3,821

Consolidated

	1983 £'000	1982 £'000
Turnover	871.7	867.3
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	42.7	39.5
Profit after taxation and minority interests	23.9	24.9
Earnings per ordinary share - net basis	10.72p	11.28p
Dividends per ordinary share	5.25p	4.75p

Company

	1983 £'000	1982 £'000
Turnover	83	80
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	30	28,003
Profit after taxation and minority interests	32	181,457
Earnings per ordinary share - net basis	72	442

Northern Engineering Industries plc

Highlights Year to 31st December

Turnover

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation

Profit after taxation and minority interests

Earnings per ordinary share - net basis

Dividends per ordinary share

Record Year - further growth in 1984

It has been a successful year despite severe but transient difficulties in North America coupled with ever intensifying competition in world markets.

With the underlying strength of the company and with some signs of an upturn in world economic conditions I feel reasonably assured of a continuation of the development of the group and a further improvement in performance in 1984.

We have started 1984 with most of our units well loaded and the order intake during the first three months has been encouraging both at home and overseas.

At this early stage of 1984 I see improved performance and steady growth of the company. Sir Duncan McDonald, CBE, Chairman

Profit on ordinary activities - £42.7 million - up 8%.

Liquidity Bank balances and deposits in excess of borrowing showed further strong improvement - up from £36 million to £63 million - an increase of 75%.

Orders Continuing strong order book - £1.3 billion Direct export orders were 44% of U.K. order intake.

Dividend Dividend increased from 4.75p to 5.25p - an increase of 10%.

Copies of the report are available from the Company Secretary, Northern Engineering Industries plc, NEI House, Regent Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3SB.

INVESTING

tax-free
and from
partmore

SCHOOL FEES

Tax changes force rethink

An increasing number of parents are dissatisfied with state education and are making provision to educate their children privately, according to a survey from school fees specialists. C. Howard & Partners.

More wives are working in order to pay for private education - between 1982 and 1984 the percentage rose from 32 per cent of families surveyed to 47 per cent - and wives' average earnings have risen faster than the income of their spouses. Wives' earnings jumped from £4,175 in 1982, the last time the survey was conducted, to £6,441 in 1984, compared with an increase of just over £1,000 (£19,577 in 1984, £18,317 in 1982) in husband's earnings.

There has also been a fundamental change in the way parents save and invest to provide fees. "Most school fees plans are based on life policies and with the removal of tax relief in the budget, parents will have a rethink," says Mr. Gilbert McNeill Moss, of C. Howard & Partners. He points out that although life assurance premium relief (LAPR) is no longer available on new policies, the proceeds of a life policy remain tax free so there is still some advantage in saving this way.

Mr. Joe Collins of Invest for School Fees Ltd., thinks parents with existing insurance-linked school fees plans should review their situation. Most rely on encashment of a series of life policies in successive years to provide fees. But if parents now implement this system, they will be foregoing LAPR on their investments as tax relief is no longer available on new life policies.

"We are using the loan system now," says Mr. Collins. "For example, on most good with-profit endowments you are seeing a net yield of around 12.9 per cent and you can obtain a

policy loan at only 10 per cent. It will pay these parents to borrow and not cash in the policies."

If the cost of the borrowing rises above the expected return from the life policy, the policy is simply cashed in and the loan repaid. "One of the good things about borrowing against a life policy is that there is generally no restrictions or penalties on repaying the loan. As a policyholder, the rate of interest charged on the loan is usually a privileged rate."

With LAPR gone, the whole range of investment products is now worth considering says Mr. Collins, including unit trusts, and direct investment in gilts and shares.

But it still think most parents need the discipline of a regular monthly commitment and the life assurance route is still attractive even without LAPR.

This view is echoed by Mr. Alan Page who manages private clients' portfolios at stockbrokers Sprague & Kemp Gee. "The net return on net premiums invested is around 11 per cent and must make a bad deal to turn in these policies with tax relief," he believes. "Like the school fees specialists, he believes some advantages to insurance-linked schemes remain such as the ability to take the proceeds free of all tax. "But the case for life funds if you are a new investor is no longer so strong."

Mr. Gilbert McNeill Moss of C. Howard & Partners has been juggling the figures and maintains he can produce very similar results for new investors not eligible for LAPR by taking out the life policies on the wife rather than the husband. "The wife is usually a few years younger than her husband and gets better rates anyway," he explains. The same cash sums can be produced for premiums very similar to the old net rates when tax relief existed by simply switching the life cover to the wife.

FAMILY MONEY

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Oil enlivens market

It was the energy sector that last month provided the main excitement in the unit trust league table. The steady demand for oil as world economies continue to recover has underpinned the market, while exploration news and bid activity has added a speculative interest. The FT Actuaries Oil index was 6.6 per cent higher during April, but a couple of unit trusts comfortably outpaced that. Target Energy soared 16.1%, whilst Gartmore Oil & Energy marked up an 8.1 per cent offer price gain.

J. Rothschild Investment Management, responsible for the fortunes of the Target Fund, attributes much of the market's recent attention to the sector to the fact that it has been cheaper to buy oil reserves via companies on the stock exchange than to undertake expensive

exploration and drilling programmes.

Higher interest rates in the United States put the dollar back on the upward path in the international currency markets and provided the main boost for the trusts specialising in North America. The Dow Jones Industrial index was just 0.5 per cent over the month. Bridge American & General, advised by stockbrokers Vickers, da Costa, headed the US contingent during April with a 7.4 per cent rise.

The American smaller company and special situation funds again had a disappointing month, continuing the downward trend started last summer. Several marked up some small losses. Framlington American Turnaround was 1.5 per cent lower, whilst Britannia American Special Situations and

Aitken Hume American Technology were down 2.2 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively.

Around the other side of the world, the Tokyo stock market, and the yen have continued to forge ahead. The Nikkei Dow Jones started May at an all-time high. Inevitably after its string showing in recent months, a note of caution is entering some managers' comments on immediate prospects. Henderson, for instance, in its recent investment newsletter concludes "we remain concerned that the speculative element in this buying is too high for comfort and while we are confident that the economy will continue to expand at between 4.5% and 5% for the rest of the year, much of the foreseeable corporate profits growth is well discounted."

At home on the back of some good profits reports and an

optimistic CBI survey of industrial trends the FT Industrial ordinary index has sailed past the 900 level. Gartmore British put up the best performance amongst the trusts concentrating on the UK.

Mike Hockings

Current value of £100 invested over four months to May 1, 1984

FUND	VALUE
Target Special Gilt	133.5
Fidelity Japan	131.3
Openheimer Income & Grth	129.7
Quadrant Recovery	127.5
Target Energy	126.3
Key Equity and General	124.7
Wardley Income	124.7
Target Income	124.5
Mercury Recovery	124.1
Fidelity Growth & Income	123.9

* Offer to offer price, not income reinvested. Source: Financial Savings Magazine

HEALTH INCENTIVES

Screening service for women workers

Private health insurance is a long-established counter on the wages bargaining table - popular not only with the higher echelons of management but unions as well.

Now Bupa - the British United Provident Association - is offering a women's screening service to companies where at least 70 female employees are likely to take up the offer.

The service, which consists of a four-woman team with a hired mammography unit for breast cancer screening, offers women the chance to talk to a doctor for up to half an hour as well as routine urine, blood and blood pressure checks plus a cervical smear and instructions in breast self-examination.

This costs £45 per patient and since the mobile service began

18 months ago 5 per cent of the companies involved have paid for the service. In the other cases the women have paid the fee themselves. But the difference in the take-up only varied from 80 per cent when the company paid to 65 per cent when the women paid for themselves.

Bupa plans to train regional nurses who can provide this

service rather than having to send out of London-based team with all the expenses of hotel accommodation.

Bupa also runs a women's screening unit at its London base near King's Cross. The cost is £55 or £48 for members and a Bupa insurance scheme of £83 and £76 respectively for an examination and consultation with a doctor.

AUCTIONS

Rare opportunity for Oxford wine buffs

Phillips has decided to re-enter the wine auction field on a provincial basis with a sale at Oxford on Thursday.

Many wine investors like the opportunity to attend a pre-sale tasting and the auction itself, both of which may be difficult if they are some distance from London. Only rarely do

Christies and Sotheby's hold provincial wine auctions. Phillips, including Brooks, will be selling 352 lots at 39 Park End Street, Oxford, starting at 6.30 pm (catalogue £1). In several instances, purchasers may collect the wines but delivery can be arranged for between £1-£3 per case depending upon where the wine is lying and the purchaser's address.

Mr. Robert Churchward has put together a wide cross-section of wines, ranging from light summer drinking like 1981 Muscadet de Sèvre-et-Maine from Jean Cordillac at an estimated £21-£26 per dozen bottles, to classic investment potential, such as Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1978. Vintage ports include the outstanding 1963 vintage of Croft, Cockburn, and Warre, which are likely to fetch £200-£240 per case. Many investors will find the opportunity to acquire mixed cases of interest. They include red and white Burgundy, claret, and West German. Older wines likely to attract

keen bidding include 1840 Grand Reserve Fine Champagne Cognac, 1865 Martignac Cognac, Croft 1927 in useful half bottles, Quinta do Noval 1947, Chateau Lafite-Rothschild, Dom Pérignon Champagne 1971, and Chambolle Masignay Charnes 1934.

There is a useful tasting at 4.30 pm before the sale to assess many of the wines on offer.

Phillips plans to hold further wine sales at Oxford on September 18 of burgundy, claret and champagne.

Among other provincial wine auctions planned is one by Colliers Bigwood & Bewlay on June 21 at The Old School, Tiddington, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Conal Gregory

Income trusts

If income is your investment objective, unit trust advisers Richards Longstaff have come up with some recommendations for income trusts. Their choice includes Brown Shipley Income, F & C Income, Henderson Extra Income, M & G Dividend and Schroder Income.

They point out that the removal of the investment income surcharge has made it more worth while for investors to go for straightforward income rather than looking for ways of realizing capital gains to provide income.

Investment Trusts. The high flyers.



If you're looking for a potentially high-flying investment, take a look at Investment Trust shares.

Performance of Investment Trust shares speaks for itself. Over 5 years, to the beginning of 1984, they have on average not only outstripped the FT All-Share Index, but other investments such as Unit Trusts and building society share accounts.

While retaining a balanced spread of investments, Investment Trust managers have the ability to invest in exciting projects worldwide, quoted and unquoted.

Substantial tax-free gains have been secured by Investment Trusts in North Sea Oil, microchip technology and other unquoted companies before they obtained their public quotation, allowing the Trusts' shareholders to get in on the ground floor.

If you'd like to find out more about Investment Trusts, cast an eagle eye over our booklet 'More for your money.'

Just send us the coupon and we'll send you a free copy.



The Association of Investment Trust Companies
Your shares of the action.

For more information on Investment Trusts and stockbrokers who deal with private clients please send for our free booklet 'More for your money' (Block capitals please.)

Please send me _____ copy/copies.

Name _____

Address _____

If you are an investment adviser, please indicate your profession:
Stockbroker ☐ Accountant ☐ Solicitor ☐ Insurance broker ☐
Banker ☐ Other investment adviser ☐

To: The Association of Investment Trust Companies, FREEPOST, Dept CB, CIRENCESTER, Glos GL7 1BR. (No stamp required if posted in the UK.)

AIR CALL

AIR CALL PLC SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Year ended 31st December

	1983 £000	1982 £000
Turnover	17,831	15,183
Profit before taxation	1,305	1,015
Profit after taxation	869	810
Earnings per share	22.5p	21.0p
Dividends per share	5.6p	5.6p

John Stanley, Chairman, reports:

- * Profits before tax up 29%
- * Further substantial growth envisaged in 1984

Copies of the 1983 Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from:
The Secretary, Air Call PLC,
176-184 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1DX.

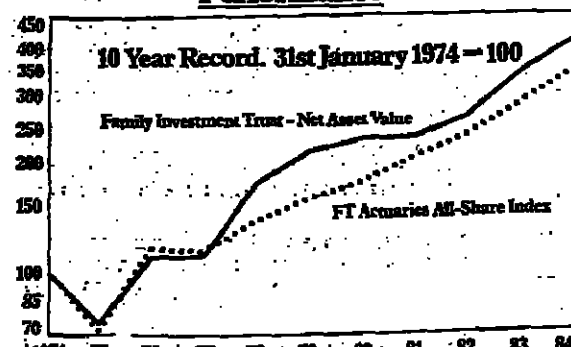
The Family Investment Trust plc

Highlights of the year

(ended 31 January 1984)

Gross Revenue	£492,226 + 9.85%
Dividend per share	6.60p + 4.76%
Net Asset Value per share	218.0p + 19.45%
Total Assets	£9,592,604

Performance



Investment Objective
To invest principally but not exclusively in those small companies that are believed to have sufficiently good growth prospects to enable them to become the larger companies within a foreseeable time-scale.

MANAGERS

KLEINWORT BENSON

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts (including a six-page Investment Managers' Review) are available from the Secretary, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB.



A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

FAMILY MONEY

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5% per cent. seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 5 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 8% per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9% per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1 month 8.0, 3 months 8.25, 6 months 8.5 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS
Flat APR Telephone
Aldian Home 8.5 8.84 01 638 6070
B of Scotland 8.25 8.88 01 628 8080
Birmingham 8.5 8.74 01 588 2777
National 8.5 8.29 01 498 8824
Openpenner Simco
High interest
Current account 8.18 8.35 01 236 3867
S & P 7.9 8.2 0708 98366
Schröder Wagg 7.53 8.22 01 382 8225
over £10,000 8.18 8.48 01 382 8225
Tulley & Riley 7.99 8.19 01 236 0562
T & R 7 day 8.30 8.51 01 236 0562
Tynall 8.25 8.51 0272 732241
Tynall 8.19 8.44 0272 732241
Watt 7 day 8.4 8.63 01 623 3020
Western Trust
1 month 8.06 8.36 0725 251182

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account 9% per cent. interest paid without deduction of tax, monthly notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.
National Savings Certificates 27th Issue
Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to annual interest rate over the five-year term of 7.25 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.
National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 - max. £50,000. Interest - 10 per cent variable at six weeks notice - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice - check penalties.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1984 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1983 and October 1984 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Retirement Issue Certificates purchased in May 1979, £171.61 including bonus and supplement.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Ltd. Reserves 0481 26741. seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.
US dollar 7.58 per cent
Yen 4.58 per cent
D Mark 4.52 per cent
French Franc 10.32 per cent
Swiss Franc 1.81 per cent

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 6.25 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Extra interest accounts, 1 to 1.25 per cent above ordinary account. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments. Interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £100, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

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SAVINGS

Yearly plan to replace SAYE

National Savings will discontinue the Save As You Earn index-linked regular savings scheme on May 31 and replace it on July 3 with a new plan.

The terms have not yet been announced but it will be called National Savings Yearly Plan and, in return for monthly contributions, will guarantee a fixed rate of interest for five years from the first payment. Interest, which will not necessarily be evenly spread over the term, will be tax free. National Savings is likely to structure the interest payments to provide an incentive to stay the full five-year term.

Savers will need either a bank account or a National Savings Ordinary Account, as contributions can be made only by standing order. The minimum monthly contribution will be £20 with a maximum of £100.

The current index-linked scheme will remain on offer until the end of the month and the share option Series B SAYE scheme continues unchanged. Anyone over 16 can join a SAYE scheme and savings in the new plan will be additional to any monthly contributions to existing SAYE plans or holdings of National Savings Certificates.

THE SINGER & FRIEDLANDER BUSINESS EXPANSION FUND 1984/85

Following Singer & Friedlander's launch of the 1983/84 Fund which was fully invested, income tax payers still have time to consider investing in The Singer & Friedlander Business Expansion Fund 1984/85 which again offers a spread of investment in exciting, unquoted companies.

The 1984/85 Fund offers investors tax relief at their highest marginal rates, the benefit of Singer & Friedlander's long experience with emerging companies and all the advantages of its national network of offices in finding suitable target companies. Over 200 propositions were received by the 1983/84 Fund.

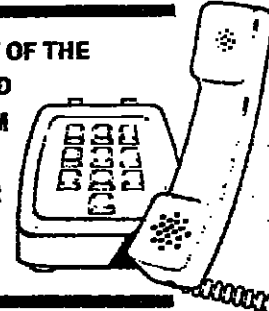
Investors may subscribe a minimum of £2,000 up to a maximum of £40,000. There is no predetermined maximum level of the Fund, and Singer

& Friedlander reserve the right to close the Fund before the above date if the aggregate of subscriptions reaches what it considers to be an optimum level.

Potential investors should recognise that such investments carry high risks as well as the prospect of exceptional rewards.

All applications from new investors will be dealt with in strict order of receipt.

TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE MEMORANDUM AND APPLICATION FORM RING 01-623 3000. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 25th MAY 1984



How to pay off your mortgage with Penny Shares

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Each week the SMC Editor chairs a private meeting of the SMC Board of Advisers. Together these financial specialists pool information, validate sources, and discuss the latest City whispers. At the end of the meeting they have chosen the hottest tips and decided whether or not to sell any shares previously recommended.

We guarantee that none of these tips will be leaked by the Editorial Board, or published, except in SMC.

Which means you can act with total confidence each Thursday morning.



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- One of our "Hot Tips" - act by Thursday lunchtime before other subscribers pick up the price.
- Portfolio monitor - watching shares already in your portfolio and recommending appropriate action.
- Investment analysis - including all the latest news and tips.
- A double inside information for long term capital growth.

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Everyone is welcome to enter our Free Prize Draw. All you have to do is tick the appropriate box on the application form below and return it to us by 30th June 1984.

On the 4th July 1984, if you're the winner, you'll receive £1000 to spend or invest as you please. We'll suggest you invest it in any one of our "Hot Tips" for that week. Because if you do, and

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your £300 of shares aren't worth £1000 by 17th August, we'll make up the difference in cash. That's right, we're so confident that our advice is sound we believe that £500 will be worth £1000 in just six weeks.

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In case you're away from home on a Thursday morning, or the first post is delayed, we supply you with a private "Hot Tip Hotline" phone number, so that you can hear a summary of that week's SMC.

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MOTOR RACING

RUGBY LEAGUE: CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

One: Since the randomization experiment is simple, it is easy to see how it can be done.

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

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full in the acade
yesterday's Rugb
final will be show

6.30 News Review. A
week's news.

7.15 Sharing Time. A
stories set in a
holiday time-sabbat
converted manor
this opening play
McKenzie is the
dentist who is h
week at the flat
spies her husband
(Ceefax tries pa

8.10 News with Jan L

8.15 The Natural World
of the Bumble-be
season opens w
everyday story o
bee - a creature
style is similar to
humans. Specia
photography fro
endoscopes reve
as thriving fact
procreation of th
with specialists
job. Filmed in
of the Bumble-be
of Maine the bu
hazardous busin
to work is illust
number of pred
has to avoid we
from flower to h
narrator is Barry

9.05 Arena Special:
Louis. An Aren
French film dire
Malle. He is film
conversation wit
playwright and
Shaw at a resta
Atlantic City.

10.05 World Snooker.
16 in the final of
World Professional
Championship.



talks to Melvyn Bragg on the

CHANNEL 4

- 1.30 **Scottish View**, News items gleaned from the week's output from Scottish Television, Grampan and Border by Alastair Hetherington.
- 1.55 **A Seat Among the Stars - The Cinema in Ireland**, Part two The Silent Classics.
- 2.25 **Film: Gary Cooper** (1939) starring Gary Cooper, Ray Milland and Brian Donlevy. The classic P. G. Wren adventure about three English brothers who run away to join French Foreign Legion. Directed by William A. Wellman.
- 4.30 **Anything We Can Do**, The penultimate programme in the dramatized series about the uses of computers.
- 5.00 News summary and weather followed by Book Four, presented by Hermione Lee. Lady Antonia Fraser's The World of Versailles is reviewed: poet Geoffrey Hill reads a selection of his own poems; and Max Stafford-Clark, artistic director of the Royal Court Theatre, picks his selection of plays published paperback this spring.
- 5.45 **Where in the World Travel** quiz between two teams of celebrities.
- 6.15 **Basketball** A warm-up game for the British Olympic squad against the Channel Four All Stars.
- 7.15 **The Series**, The first in a repeat series that analyses 'swinging' decade. This programme, narrated by James Bolam, examines the 'Establishment' and the challenges of '60 and '60s satire.
- 8.15 **Unlucky, Downstairs**, Episode two and Richard Belfrage's new secretary finds herself in new stars.
- 9.15 **Top C's and Tiaras**, The second programme in the series starring American opera star Julia Migenes Johnson.
- 10.15 **The Supermodels**, The story of world-breaking models from the time, 30 years ago, Roger Barnister became the first athlete to break the four minute barrier.
- 11.30 **Alfred Hitchcock Presents** Collected. Starring Joseph Cotton as a ruthless businessman.
- 12.00 **Closedown**.

Review in *Autumn*
by Edward R.

name. 6.55 time	7.30	Bookshelf: Radio 4's programme.
ers. 7.15 s. 7.45 New ravel;	8.00	Letter From The Pyrenees 13 talks, more than Correspondent, Philip reflects on the changing rural France.
ers. and road, in ocation.	8.15	The Paint Hammers, in three programmes, D. Taylor looks at the pit perils of picketing 9.00
ers. Austrian dition. Derek and finess	9.00	News, Our Mutual Charles Dickens (TV) Weather.
and tumble, 1941. For g world- IC phone- er, US ews. id: News. tion ng On' by Dyslexic sister. aligner. in Hudson of history. of sex Michael sects - yme s - es icked ous on talks	10.00	The World's Debates: the crusades told in those who lived through The Way of the 11.00
	11.00	Discoveries in Health Stanley Brinkman listeners to join him in experiences of Chris- (1).
	12.00	Inside Parliament.
	12.15	News.
	12.15	Clothes: Shipping For England VWF with ab of 4,000 containers 13.15
	13.15	Musical Interlude: Schools, 1.55-2.00 P News, 4.00-6.00 Children's Guide The Chip Shop, 5.00 One's Own, 5.30 Initiative.
		Radio 3
	7.55	Weather 8.00 News.
	8.05	London Symphonies No. 10, the Tro No. 3, with Aurelia (ture) and Academy Guest 8.00 News
	9.05	Your Concert Choice Mass Cum Jubilate (N Boulienger's D'un so Bruch's Piano Con (Maurizio Pollini) 10.30
	10.30	Musical Weekly: Home Bruch's Fourth Str and Smetana's H 11.20
	11.20	The Music of Time; Topical (news and WCRB recording of performances in Boston month, Boston Sym Colin Davis (condu Robinson (soprano). Minton (mezzo-sop tenor), John Cheek
		REGIONAL

Glamorous Nights with Robin Scobie and
The 1000 Stars
Presbyterian Church, Belfast 9.00 to 10.00
Hundred Best Tunes with Alan Keith
10.00 Sports Disc 10.05 Marching and
The 1000 Stars
Lynch and his Band with Humphrey
Jazzell and their clan (stereo from
1972) 11.00am Peter Scobie presents
Nighttime 11.00-11.40 Steve Jones with
Two's Best

Radio 1

News of the half-hour until 11.30 am
then 2.30, 3.30, 5.00, 7.30, 9.30 pm at
12.00 midnight. *MFPIFM*, 6.00 am *Mersey*
6.00pm *Tony Blackburn's Sunday*
7.00-8.00pm *John Peel*
Jimmy Savile's 'Old Record' Club 2.00-2.30
Steve Wright 4.00 Paul Garmacchini with
'The 1000 Stars' 4.00-4.30
Top 40 with Simon Bates 7.00-7.30 Anne
Nightingale 9.00 Robbie Vincent with the
delights of dance music 11.00-11.30
11.30-12.00am *John Peel*
RADIOS 1 and 2 4.00am With Radio 2
2.00pm Benny Green 3.00 Alan Dale 4.00-
5.00 Susan Eddy 4.00 Spring Sound with
Singer-Seminar Simms with The Adairs
Singer-Seminar 5.00-5.30
With Radio 2

on except. 9.25a
April 11-30-12.0

Intruders 10.00pm University
1.30-2.00 Farming Diary 2.30-
3.15 Chaps 4.15 Liston Carson
5.00 Professor 6.00 The
Hollywood 12.30am Compas
Closedown.

TSW As London except:
10.00 Looking on. 1.
on writing 11.25 Get and
12.00 South West Weekly
1.30-2.00 For All 2.30-3.15
News, 2.30 Big Match. 3.15
3.30-4.30 Bartender Galactic
Comedy Tonight 12.00 Pops
Closedown.

BORDER As London ex
9.25am Border
9.35-10.00 World Work Ke
12.00 Writers on Writing. 1.
Border Diary. 1.00pm Venu
Farming Outlook 2.30-3.15
Eastern Tales. 3.25 Fashio
4.30 Cartoon. 11.30 Closed

ULSTER As London ex
11.00am Get and
1.30-12.00 Writers on Writin
University Challenge. 1.30-
2.00 2.00 Big Match. 2.30-
2.30-4.30 Little House on t
1.30 Ulster Sports Results
Hands. 12.00 News, Clos

11.00 Writers on Writing, 11.25 Ap K
 Hag, 11.30-12.00 Down to Earth
 1.00pm-12.00pm Writers on Writing
 Metal Mickey, 2.30pm Big Match, 3.15-4.45
 Return of the Saint, 11.30 Irish RM
 12.30pm Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: Starts
 9.30am-10.00am Circus On
 Time... Man, 11.30-12.00 Writers on
 Writing, 1.00pm Laurel and Hardy, 1.25
 Weather, 1.30-2.00 Farming Diary, 2.25
 Big Match, 3.15-4.30 PM: Honourable
 Member of the British Legion, 4.45
 Julius Caesar's down, 11.30 Devlin
 Connexion, 12.30pm Bishop talks to
 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except:
 9.25am-9.30am Pearly, 9.35-9.45
 Sport Bally, 10.00-11.00 Seaside
 Street, 11.30-12.00 Writers on
 Writing, 1.00pm University Challenge, 1.20-2.25
 Famous Outlook, 2.30 Return of the
 Saint, 3.30 Bultsey, 4.00 Murphy's
 4.30-4.45 The 50 Score, 11.30 Irish
 RM, 12.30pm Reflections, Closedown

CHANNEL As London except:
 Starts 12.00pm
 1.30-2.00 Play Better Squash 2
 Big Match 1.15 Carleton 3-4-3
 Rob. 4.30-4.45 Justice 4.50 Comedy
 Tonight 12.30pm Closedown

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
 * Stereo, ** Black and white, P Repeat.

Unions in clash over coal blockade

Continued from page 1

Age companies at the meeting agreed to further "negotiations" with the British Steel Corporation.

In another development the miners' union dealt the final blow to any hopes of early negotiations on the strike. Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, told the board in a letter that talks could be held only if the proposals for colliery closures and 20,000 job cuts were withdrawn unconditionally.

A board official said the union's "uncompromising attitude" was regrettable.

Last night union officials said the mass demonstration planned in Nottinghamshire to persuade miners who are working to join the strike will be led by Mr Arthur Scargill, the president, on May 14. The Union has called for it to be Britain's biggest ever trade union demonstration.

There may also be a large demonstration in Mansfield on Monday when miners are due to hold a May Day rally. Mr Scargill is expected to attend, and police and local authority officials believe up to 10,000 miners could flood into Mansfield.

Ravenscraig yesterday around 30 pickets were heavily outnumbered by police and the lorries went through with little difficulty. One result of the transport union decision may be that lorry drivers will be asked to stop to listen to the pickets' arguments.

By nightfall 131 lorries of coal had entered Ravenscraig. Nineteen pickets were arrested and a policeman was slightly injured when more than 2,000 miners laid siege to Huddersfield Colliery, north of Nottingham, for the second day in an attempt to "picket out" the workforce.

Most of those arrested will face public order charges but at least one will be charged with assault or actual bodily harm.

Five Welsh miners have been arrested for distributing strike leaflets. Mr Terry Thomas, the South Wales miners' vice-president, told the Wales TUC, the pamphlets contained a picture of police escorting "blacklegs" in 1929 and a definition of a "scab", but they were not unlawful or offensive, he said.

Mr Emyln Williams, the area president, said his members had been handcuffed and beaten up.

Pope likely to preach in pidgin English



Catholics in Papua New Guinea carry placards in pidgin English en route to meet the Pope who is likely to preach in pidgin English during his visit on Monday. One translates as "Jesus paid the price for you and me upon the cross. With Jesus we take hold upon eternal life"

Liverpool nears brink

Continued from page 1

Thursday night's excitement Labour's electoral performance looked slightly less impressive than allowed by Mr Hutton who called it a referendum endorsement of his party's policies. Turnout at 50 per cent was strikingly high, aided perhaps by a campaign by the *Liverpool Echo* to increase polling and the Liberals said, by the intervention of trade unions representing council workers and town hall officials working on Labour's behalf.

Labour's city-wide vote was slightly less as a proportion of the poll than last year, when the party took control. In terms of total votes cast Labour's 90,000 compared with 67,000 for the Liberals and 27,000 for the Conservatives. The Liberals, unexpectedly, held on to some

seats, including one in the Broadgreen area represented in Parliament by Militant supporter Mr Terry Fields.

Labour gained seven seats from both Liberals and Conservatives. The Liberals lost two seats net, making gains at the Conservatives' expense. Liberal leader Sir Trevor Jones, still recovering from a politically-motivated physical attack which left him needing hospital treatment, said the Conservative Party in Liverpool was "finished".

According to Mr John Hamilton, the titular Labour leader, Labour's admittedly drastic plan is a rational response to Liverpool's financial state. Liverpool remains a large-scale recipient of Mr Jenkins' inner urban programme money.



Kremlin joins the video revolution

After a year or two of agonizing, the Russians have finally decided that since they can't beat the video revolution, they had better join it - provided it can be harnessed for orthodox Soviet ends rather than the "infection" of wicked Western ways.

Only last spring the Soviet press was inveighing against video as yet another dark Western plot to undermine morality and the communist system. Papers reported that the police had broken up a ring of black market dealers in video players and cassettes, seizing such subversive films as *The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*, and *A Clockwork Orange*.

Video, the press declared righteously, had become a status symbol for the privileged and corrupt. All over Moscow, video screens curbed behind closed curtains with grainy third-hand pirated versions of Western pornography and violence.

But while scaling Russia's borders against unwelcome imports was a necessary precaution, the attempt to stamp out "video fever" altogether may have been hasty and ill-advised, according to a recent issue of the *Literary Gazette*.

The information technology revolution, which has seized the West over the past decade and transformed areas of life from commerce to entertainment poses serious problems for the Kremlin. Whereas the West assumes that proliferation of information is desirable and stimulates economic activity, in Russia information of all kinds is kept under lock and key.

Officials acknowledge that Russia is falling further behind every day, and a "computer illiterate" society. In an effort to get to grips with part of the problem, the *Literary Gazette* offers the heretical view that the drawbacks stem from the misuse of video in "unclean hands" rather than from video itself.

Video is no more to blame for violence or pornography than the printing press or cinema. Like them (and like computers) video is a tool which can be beneficial - in the right hands. The Soviet Union must face the fact that "the age of cassette cinema has begun", the paper said, adding that, in future, Soviet viewers might be able to watch their

favourite Eisenstein or Fellini film on video, just as they can now take down a volume by Shakespeare or Dostoevsky from the shelf.

This still leaves the Kremlin with two main headaches: how to provide hardware and software on a mass scale and keep up with western developments, and how to control illegal cassettes. There is a home-grown Soviet video recorder, but as the *Literary Gazette* frankly noted, it costs £2,000 and does not work. The Russians who can afford it prefer Japanese or European machines, bought on the black market for up to £6,000 each.

Foreigners cannot sell electrical equipment to Russians, and have to sign a declaration at the Soviet customs that they will re-export all appliances or prove they have been destroyed. Nonetheless, Western goods do filter through and reach those in high places - from the Georgian underworld to the political elite.

The underground market in cassettes flourishes despite police raids and the vigilance of customs, who confiscate even hard-to-recordings. The fear, as the *Literary Gazette* observed, is that passive Soviet viewers will suffer from "cultural infection".

The paper says the answer may lie in Government authorized video clubs, where enthusiasts can gather in a homely atmosphere and watch edifying documentaries and films produced by state television and state cinema organizations.

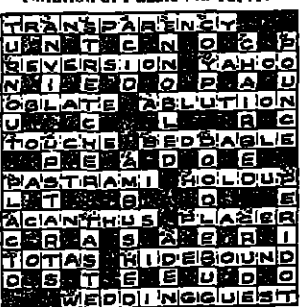
A more ingenious solution, given that some Russians might opt for Linda Lovelace rather than films about the Second World War and documentaries on heroic steelworkers, is for Russia to mass produce a video system which is conveniently incompatible with both VHS and Betamax, the main Western systems.

Secret talks have already begun with Grundig of West Germany for the Soviet Union to manufacture under licence the Grundig 2000, which failed commercially in the West but which the Russians could happily market in the secure knowledge that it could not be used to screen cassettes condemned by the Kremlin as unfit for public consumption.

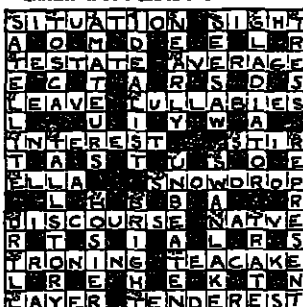
Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 16,416



Solution of Puzzle No 16,421



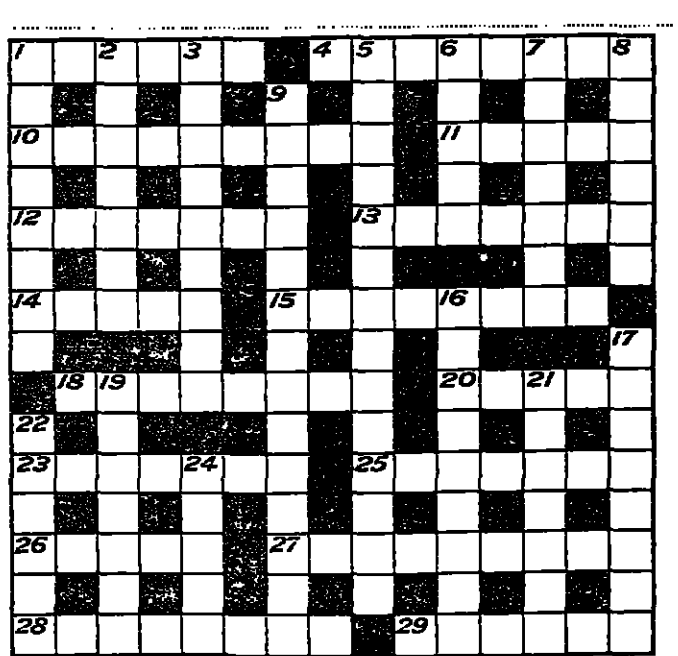
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,422

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competitions, 12 Coler Street, London WC9 9TT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Miss S. D. Givich, 178 Hole Lane, Northfield, Birmingham 31; Christopher Russell, 41 Gifford Gardens, London, SE19 1HF; A. R. Nolan, 9 Caroline Place, London, W12 4JH.

Name.....

Address.....



- ACROSS
- Old Brook as a young boy (6).
 - Mourner, providing one example (8).
 - Biblical king of Persia who married a book-maker (9).
 - Isabella's potty alternative (5).
 - Wild iconoclast, but not against the austere (7).
 - Mixed pair in service lift (7).
 - Container of water taken from Mexican alcohol (15).
 - Changed as a seasoned traveller probably did (18).
 - Kind of tycoon who will not be dictated to (15).
 - With spoken French other ranks got a listener (7).
 - A possible stealer of scenes in *Hamlet* (7).
 - Harriet's farewell to the Taverney (15).
 - Made to hate James? What barbarism (9).
 - Wrong emphasis can be bad form (18).
 - Saw sufferer arrest (16).
- DOWN
- After break, dismiss the case of the soldier (18).
 - Nothing in an old battle for another (7).
 - Uplift in opening to a little work (9).
 - Sort of verbiage Mr Polly misnamed (14).
 - Not half decent for the complimentary season, this old flame (15).
 - Lodging-house casual one put in case history (7).
 - Outstanding replacement for Francisco (16).
 - E's out to make his protocol pure for the chairman's office (14).
 - Check foot-cage - it can be dangerous if worn (15-1).
 - Having an authoritative squint? (4-4).
 - Makes orders - and admits to them (7).
 - Wrongful withholding of goods made one upset, note (7).
 - His beast of burden may have come from Ambala (6).
 - Accuracy, half of which is misleading (15).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 19

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, attends the Regimental Old Comrades' Dinner at Lord's Tavern, St John's Wood, London NW8, 7.30.
Princess Anne attends the centenary celebrations of St. Swinith's School, Winchester. Hants, 3. and later, as president of the British Olympic Association, attends a hand-ming reception at Winchester Castle, Hampshire, 5.40.
Princess Alexandra attends a performance of *Great Expectations* in celebration of the centenary of the Royal Theatre and Opera House, Northampton, 6.50.

New exhibitions
Contemporary jewelry: Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7. Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30. Sun 2.30 to 5.50 closed Fri (until June 28).

Tomorrow

Royal engagements
Princess Anne attends the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Parade in Hyde Park, 11. and later attends luncheon with the Regimental Association of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, 1.15.

Music

Concert by the East Herts County Music Schools Society, St Mary's Church, Bruntingthorpe, 7.30.
Concert by the Burgate Singers, Burgate Church, Suffolk, 7.30.

General

Local flying day and fire engine display, Duxford Airfield, Cambridge, 10.
Raff race, Sheffield Canal, Sheffield, 10 to 1.
Rail and road heritage run, Southall Railway Centre, Merrick Rd, Southall, 10 to 6 daily (until Monday).
May Bank Holiday Steam-up, Didcot Railway Centre, 11 to 5 daily (until Monday).

Anniversaries

Births: Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher, Copenhagen, 1813; Karl Marx, 1818; Heinrich Heine, 1797; author of *Quo Vadis?*, Nobel laureate 1905, Wladimir Kravtchuk, 1884; Deaths: Napoleon Bonaparte, St Helena Island, 1821; August von Hoffmann, chemist, Berlin, 1892.

TOMORROW Births: Sigmund Freud, Freiberg, Moravia (Prigorje), 1856; Luis Drago, statesman, Buenos Aires, 1859; Deaths: Heinrich Heine, 1797; August von Hoffmann, chemist, Berlin, 1892; Heinrich Heine, 1797; August von Hoffmann, chemist, Berlin, 1892; Heinrich Heine, 1797; August von Hoffmann, chemist, Berlin, 1892.

In the garden

With an ever watchful eye on the weather have plenty of newspapers or other material handy to cover tender young shoots of potatoes or dahlias if there is a frost warning.
Old dahlias tubers may be planted now six inches deep. They may be divided first with a sharp knife, cutting through the old stem so that there is a tuber attached - new shoots come from the base of the stem, not from the tubers.
If you saved begonia tubers from last year and these are now starting into growth they too may be divided: see that each piece has at least one shoot. Outdoor, early flowering chrysanthemums may be planted out now provided the cuttings have been hardened off in a cold frame and then uncovered.
Do not be in a hurry to sow grass seed if you are making a new lawn or intend to patch an old one. The seed will germinate faster when the soil has warmed up a bit more and the birds will not have so long to find it.
R.H.

Gardens open

Today and tomorrow Warwickshire: Ilmington Manor, near Shipston-on-Stour, off A34, 4m S of Stratford-upon-Avon; rock garden, spring bulbs, pond garden; 2 to 6.
Tomorrow Berkshire: White Horse, Finchampstead, large garden on hillside; terraces, heathers, shrubs, water gardens; P. 9 to 9. Devon: Woodside, Higher, Raleigh road, Barnstaple, off A39 to Lynton, 300 yards past fire station; plantsman's garden, 2 acres, alpine, ornamental grasses, rare shrubs, collection of New Zealand plants; 2 to 6, also open June 3, July 1 and August 5. Essex: Thorpe Hall, Thorpe-le-Soken; famous gardens of outstanding charm, fine trees; 2 to 6. Gloucestershire: Courtfield, Long House, 1/2 acre, with large rock garden, pool, old buildings including blacksmiths forge; 2 to 6.
P=Plants for sale

The papers

The Daily Express says that "there is no reason why Thursday's election results should have blighted Mrs Thatcher's fifth anniversary in Downing Street". It adds: "Government's traditionally suffer from protest votes between general elections. It would have been real news had the Government not actually received this widely expected and now traditional punch on the nose."

Roads

London and South-East: A3204: Repairs to rail bridge over Kennington Lane, from midnight Saturday to 6am Sunday, one lane at a time will be closed at Kennington Lane at the junction with Vauxhall Cross.
Midlands: M5 Contraflow system operates between junction 3 (Birmingham) and junction 4 (Bromsgrove). A12: contraflow at Bentley, on Ipswich to Colchester Road, A38 Diversion via roundabout at Branson, South of Burton on Trent.
North: A56: Washday Road in Sale, single lane traffic, diversions. M62: Outside lane of eastwood carriageway closed, barrier repairs in the vicinity of junction 12 (Eccles interchange). A562: Single line traffic at Sankey Bridge, Warrington.
Wales and West: M5: Between junctions 16 and 17 Bristol, various lane closures on southbound carriageway, northbound access slip road closed at junction 17. Diversion via A38 to junction 16. Delays. A39: North Road, Barnstable, Devon, single lane, temporary lights, between Arlington and Lynton. A55: Chester to Colwyn Bay, Ewloe flyover construction Llandudis by-pass contraflow.
Scotland: A96: Roundabout improvements at A490 junction, west of Forres, traffic controls. A94: Stop/go boards in use. A9: Embankment strengthening north of Bonar Bridge single lane traffic with temporary signals.
Information supplied by the AA.

Lyke Wake Walk

The 42-mile walk over the North Yorkshire Moors has been closed because of the risk of fire. The area is under dry after 20 days without rain.

£10,000 bonds

The £10,000 Premium Bond winners in May are: 16AB 961136: The winner lives in Essex, 88K 135762 (Leicestershire); 77K 189294 (Newport, Gwent); 4XW 702995 (Norfolk); 182W 006079 (West Yorkshire).

The pound

	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell	Sell
Australia \$	1.59	1.51	
Austria Sch	26.35	26.55	
Belgium Fr	82.00	78.00	
Canada \$	1.87	1.80	
Denmark Kr	14.50	13.80	
Finland Mkk	8.41	8.01	
France Fr	12.81	11.58	
Germany DM	3.94	3.76	
Greece Dr	156.00	146.00	
Hong Kong \$	11.40	10.80	
Italy Lit	333.00	317.00	
Japan Yen	146	140	
Netherlands Gld	11.35	10.75	
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00	
South Africa Rd	3.13	3.07	
Spain Ptas	218.00	207.00	
Sweden Kr	11.75	11.15	
Switzerland Fr	3.29	3.12	
USA \$	1.46	1.40	
Yugoslavia Dr	205.00	185.00	
Ireland	1.29	1.23	

Retail Price Index: 345.1.
London: The FT Index closed down 1.4 at 915.4.

Weather forecast

A weak ridge of high pressure will cover most areas but a trough of low pressure will later move towards N Scotland.

6am to midnight

London, Midlands, Wales, NW, CW, N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SE Scotland, Glasgow, SW Highlands, Angles, N Ireland: Sunny periods, scattered showers, wind variable, light, max temp 16C (61F).
SE England, SW Midlands, SE Scotland, NW Highlands, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, isolated showers, wind light to moderate, max temp 16C (61F).
E Angles, E NE England, SE Scotland, NW Highlands, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, isolated showers, wind light to moderate, max temp 16C (61F).
Wales and West: Between junctions 16 and 17 Bristol, various lane closures on southbound carriageway, northbound access slip road closed at junction 17. Diversion via A38 to junction 16. Delays. A39: North Road, Barnstable, Devon, single lane, temporary lights, between Arlington and Lynton. A55: Chester to Colwyn Bay, Ewloe flyover construction Llandudis by-pass contraflow.

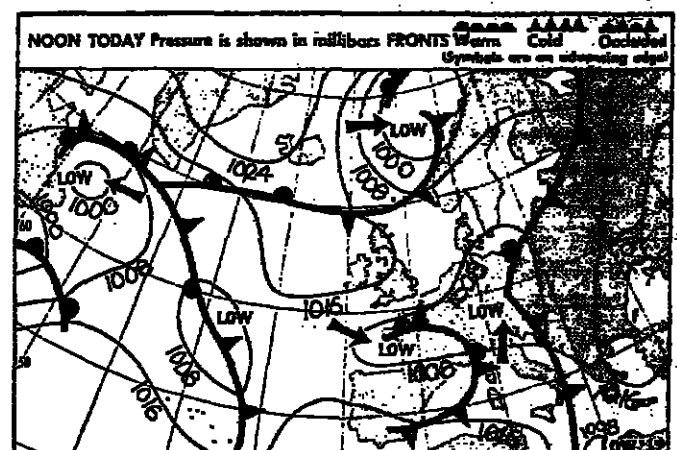
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, Wind, NE light increasing to moderate or fresh, scattered showers, visibility moderate, with fog patches, sea slight to moderate. English Channel (off Wind, NE light, scattered showers, visibility moderate, with fog patches, sea slight to moderate. Irish Sea, Wind, NE light, scattered showers, visibility moderate, with fog patches, sea slight to moderate. North Sea, Wind, NE light, scattered showers, visibility moderate, with fog patches, sea slight to moderate.

Lighting-up time

	Sun rises	Sun sets	Moon rises	Moon sets
London	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Edinburgh	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Belfast	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Cardiff	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Exeter	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Gloucester	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Leeds	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Liverpool	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Manchester	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Newcastle	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Nottingham	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Sheffield	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Southampton	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Stoke	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Swansea	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Torquay	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Wolverhampton	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm
Wrexham	5:25 am	8:31 pm	7:57 am	12:35 pm

Around Britain

	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
London	5.2	10	15	8
Birmingham	5.2	10	15	8
Manchester	5.2	10	15	8
Cardiff	5.2	10	15	8
Exeter	5.2	10	15	8
Gloucester	5.2	10	15	8
Leeds	5.2	10	15	8
Liverpool	5.2	10	15	8
Manchester	5.2	10	15	8
Newcastle	5.2	10	15	8
Nottingham	5.2	10	15	8
Sheffield	5.2	10	15	8
Southampton	5.2	10	15	8
Stoke	5.2	10	15	8
Swansea	5.2	10	15	8
Torquay	5.2	10	15	8
Wolverhampton	5.2	10	15	8
Wrexham	5.2	10	15	8



Yesterday

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity
Belfast	15.5	15	11	52
Birmingham	15.5	15	11	52
Blackpool	15.5	15	11	52
Bristol	15.5	15	11	52
Cardiff	15.5	15	11	52
Exeter	15.5	15	11	52
Gloucester	15.5	15	11	52
Leeds	15.5	15	11	52
Liverpool	15.5	15	11	52
Manchester	15.5	15	11	52
Newcastle	15.5	15	11	52
Nottingham	15.5	15	11	52
Sheffield	15.5	15	11	52
Southampton	15.5	15	11	52
Stoke	15.5	15	11	52
Swansea	15.5	15	11	52
Torquay	15.5	15	11	52
Wolverhampton	15.5	15	11	52
Wrexham	15.5	15	11	52

London

Yesterday's Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 17C (63F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 12C (54F). Wind: max 6 pm to 6 am, 15 mph; min 6 am to 6 pm, 10 mph. Humidity: max 6 pm to 6 am, 52%; min 6 am to 6 pm, 45%.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday's Highest temp: Valley 18C (64F). Lowest temp: Min. St. Alb's Head 7C (45F). Highest rainfall: 1.000 inches. Lowest rainfall: 0.000 inches.

High tides

London Bridge	5:01	7:02	5:07	8:05
Alford	4:34	6:35	4:40	7:38
Ayr	10:38	11:38	11:37	11:37
Belfast	1:16	1:16	1:16	1:16
Birmingham	3:01	5:02	3:07	
Bristol	1:51	3:52	1:56	3:57
Cardiff	1:20	3:20	1:23	3:23
Cardiff	1:01	3:01	1:05	3:11
Devonport	1:51	3:52	1:56	3:57
Exeter	1:51	3:52	1:56	3:57
Falmouth	3:23	4:7	3:27	4:31
Falmouth	3:23	4:7	3:27	4:31
Falmouth	3:23	4:7	3:27	4:31
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